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THE  
HISTORY AND ANTIQUITIES  
OF  
THE TOWN  
OF  
ABERCONWY  
AND ITS  
NEIGHBOURHOOD.

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WITH NOTICES OF THE NATURAL HISTORY OF THE DISTRICT.

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BY THE  
REV. ROBERT WILLIAMS, B.A.

Christ Church, Oxford; Curate of Llangeruym.

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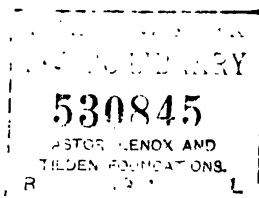
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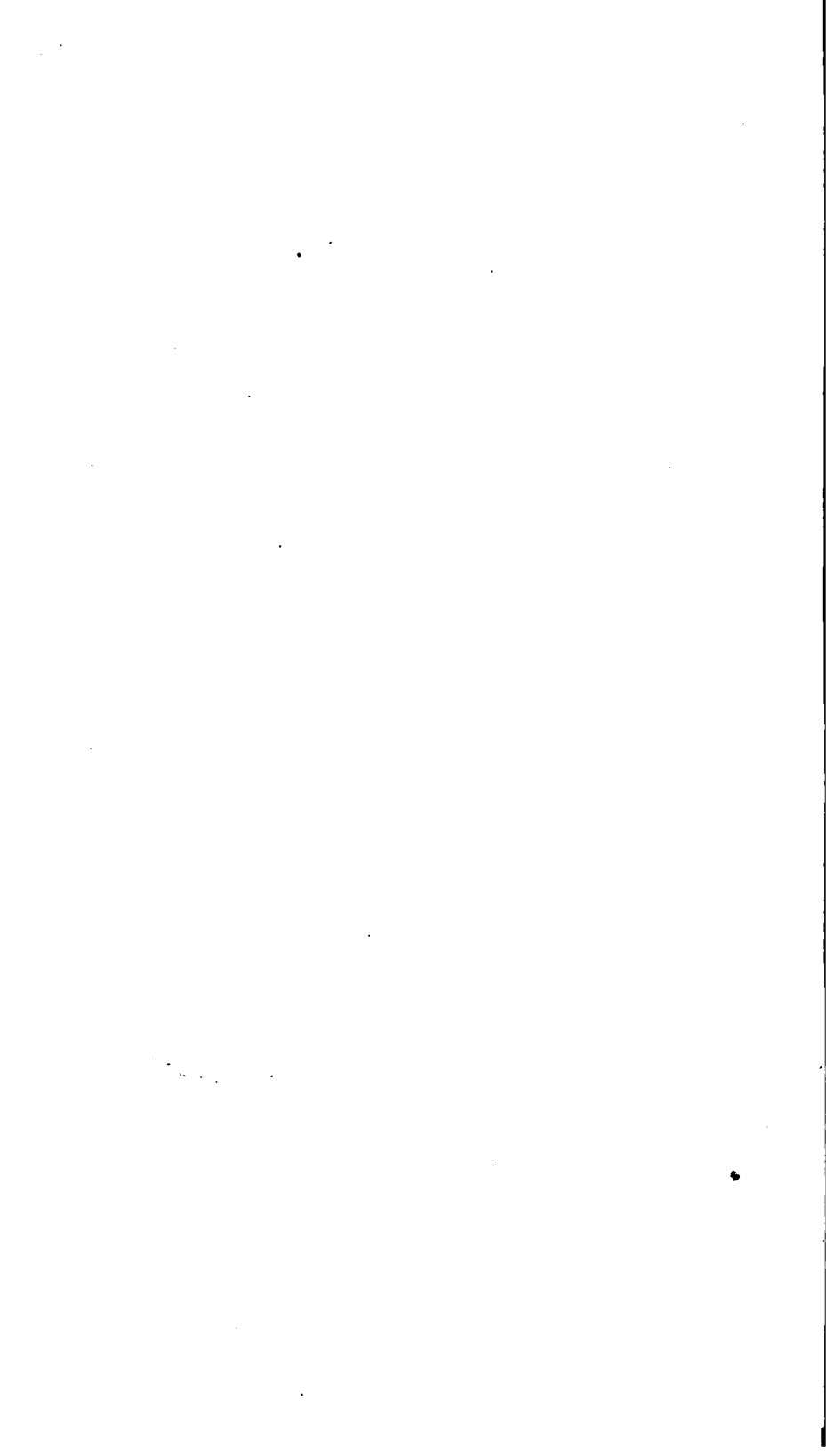
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# HISTORY

OF

## ABERCONWY.

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THE obvious advantages derived by fixing their residence on the banks of a river would naturally occur to the early inhabitants of this country, and the importance of the Conwy, in this respect, has been duly appreciated from the most remote times, of which we have any records. Its name Conwy, or more properly Cynwy, is derived from *Cyn* chief, and *wy* water, and it is allowed to be one of the finest of its length in Europe. The earliest author who makes mention of any place in this neighbourhood is Tacitus, whose *Cangorum Civitas* is fixed by the learned antiquary Humfrey Llwyd at Dyganwy. Every British nation had its own Cangî, whose office was to attend to the herds, and they resided in different pastures at various periods of the year. Benren is recorded

as the chief of the herdsmen, or Cangî, who looked after the herds of Caradog and his followers about Gorwennydd, in Siluria; the Triads assert the number of milch cows in these national herds to be twenty thousand. Some learned antiquaries place the summer residence of the Cangî of the Ordovices near the Canganorum Promontorium, or Braich y Pwll in Llŷn, or more probably extending along the coast from that point to Bangor; and in that case Dyganwy was their winter quarters: but that it was a town of the Ordovices before the invasion of the Romans, is corroborated by the discovery of a number of brass celts, or battle-axe heads, weapons peculiar to the ancient Britons; they were found here some years ago, placed heads and points, under a large stone.

When the Romans had subdued this country, they also built a town on the Conwy, but its site was at the distance of five miles higher up the river at *Caer rhun*.<sup>1</sup> Its name of *Conovium* was, according to their general practice, the latinized form of the Welsh term *Cynwy*. According to *Antonine's Itinerary*, *Conovium* was twenty-four

<sup>1</sup> So called from Rhun, the son of Maelgwn Gwynedd, who subsequently resided there.

Roman miles distant from Segontium, or Caernarvon, and nineteen from Varæ, in the neighbourhood of the present Bodfari. The name is differently given by Ptolemy, who calls the river Toisobius: why he thus calls it cannot be satisfactorily accounted for; it is certain, however, that this is the river meant, for, when describing this side of the island, he proceeds from North to South along the coast, and by naming *Toisobii fluminis ostia* before *Cancanorum promontorium*, he shews that the mouth of this river lies between that promontory and *Seteia æstuarium*, or the mouth of the river Dee, below Chester; and this is the only river of any considerable magnitude in the intervening space of country. Richard of Cirencester also, in his Itinerary, expressly calls the river by the two names of Toisobius and Conovius. The legion stationed here was the tenth, not the same which Julius Cæsar brought with him, but that called Antoniana, which served under Ostorius against the Silures and Ordovices, as appears by a coin dug up in Caermarthenshire, having on one side a triremis A N. T. A U. G. and on the other three standards L E G.<sup>2</sup> Several bricks

<sup>2</sup> See Plate 19. fig 11. of Gibson's Camden, by Gough.

have been found here inscribed L E G. X. There are still to be seen fragments of Roman bricks, and part of a hypocaust; and on removing the soil in 1801, the foundation of a Roman villa was also discovered, consisting of five rooms in front, including a sudatory. Some articles of Roman pottery, and a small round shield, ornamented with several circles of brass studs, have been discovered here, and are preserved at Caer rhun. Among the collection of antiquities at Gloddaeth, was a hollow brick from the hypocaust, thirteen inches in length, five and a half square, and about three quarters of an inch in thickness, having a round hole in the middle about two inches in diameter. Also a cake of copper smelted here from the ore of the Snowdon mountains, which is thus described by Mr. Pennant: "This mass is in the shape of a cake of bees' wax; and on the upper part is a deep concave impression with the words SOCIO ROMÆ; across these is impressed obliquely, in lesser letters, *Natsol*. I cannot explain it, unless *Nat.* stands for *Natio*, the people who paid this species of tribute; and *sol.* for *solvit*, that being the stamp-master's mark. These cakes might be bought up by a merchant resident in Britain and consigned SOCIO ROMÆ, to his partner at Rome.

The weight of this antiquity is forty-two pounds ; the diameter of the upper part eleven inches ; the thickness in the middle two and three quarters."

We now return to Dyganwy,<sup>3</sup> which city, as the towns of the Britons were not built in the substantial and regular method of the Romans, must have covered the flat between Dyganwy hill, Bryn Maelgwn, and Bod Caswallon, the residence of Caswallon Law-hir; it was principally built of wood, with which this part of Wales abounded; and the Welsh always eager to decide the contest with their enemies in the open field, paid no great attention to the science of fortification; but the numbers and encroachments of the Saxons obliged our kings to put their towns in a more proper state of defence; accordingly, early in the sixth century, Maelgwn Gwynedd, who had his *Llys* at Bryn eurn, fortified Dyganwy, and built here a strong castle. After the death of his father Caswallon, he held his court here, and in some records he is called king of Dyganwy.<sup>4</sup> Among the occurrences of his reign we find that Elphin, the son of Gwyddno Garanhir, who had been invited by his uncle

<sup>3</sup> Dy gan wy, from the white waves breaking on the shore.

<sup>4</sup> Willis' St. Asaph, by Edwards, Vol. II. 6.



Maelgwn to spend his Christmas at his court, was imprisoned by him in Dyganwy castle on account of some dispute about religion and politics; and there are some poems extant, which were written by Taliesin, who flourished at this period, in behalf of his patron Elphin: by one of them it appears that he succeeded in procuring the release of his friend from captivity, and he himself was likewise admitted to the particular favour of the king.<sup>5</sup> Maelgwn, who succeeded his father Caswallon, A.D. 517, in the sovereignty of Gwynedd, was elected king of the Britons, in A. D. 546, on the death of king Arthur. Although the Saxons were in possession of the greatest part of Britain, and were encroaching on the retirement of the Britons into Wales, we have no account of his having fought with them; but that he came into contact with them may be deduced from the notice of the origin of the plague in the Triads. In 552, he endowed the see of Bangor with lands and franchises; he likewise erected the town of Bangor Vawr, and repaired Shrewsbury, and the castle of Harlech. He is said, when at Bangor, to have been struck with remorse for the crimes

<sup>5</sup> See the originals in the *Myvyrian Archæology*, Vol. I. 22, 34, 67.

of his past life, and to have come to a resolution of retiring from the world, and devoting himself to a cloister; a design which he did not persist in, but returned to the affairs of government. He died of the *vad velen*, or yellow plague, in the church of Llanrhos, whither he had taken himself for shelter. The British poets personified disease, and this, in the form of a woman, was to slay Maelgwn, if he looked upon it, which he incautiously did through the window. Taliesin's prophetic words are these :

E ddaw pryv rhyvedd  
 O Vorva Rhianedd  
 I ddial anwiredd  
 Ar Vaelgwn Gwynedd ;  
 Ai vlew ai ddannedd  
 Ai lygaid yn eured,  
 A hyn a wna ddiwedd  
 Ar Vaelgwn Gwynedd.

“ A strange creature will come from the Marsh of Rhianedd, to punish the crimes of Maelgwn Gwynedd: its hair, its teeth, and its eyes are yellow, and this will destroy Maelgwn Gwynedd.”

This pestilence which raged in the district between the Conwy and Dyffryn Clwyd is recorded in the following Triad :—

“Tair haint echrys Ynys Prydain: Cyntav, haint o gelanedd y Gwyddyl a laddwyd ym Manuba gwedi gormesu o honynt ugain mlynedd a naw a'r wlad Wynedd. Ail, haint y vad velen o Ros, ac achos celaneddau lladdedigion y bu honno, ac od elai neb o vewn eu gwynt cwýmpo 'n varw yn ddioed a wnelai: a'r drydydd haint, y chwys drewllyd, achos llygru yr yd gan wlybaniaeth yn amser Gormes y Normeinwyr, y gan Wiliam y Bastardd.”<sup>6</sup>

“The three dreadful pestilences of the Isle of Britain. First, the pestilence from the carcasses of the Gwyddelians, who were slain in Manuba, after they had oppressed the country of Gwynedd for twenty-nine years. Second, the pestilence of the yellow plague of Rhos, and which was caused by the carcasses of the slain, and whoever went within reach of the effluvia fell dead immediately: and the third was the pestilence of the

<sup>6</sup> Myvyrian Archæology, Vol. II. 59,

fetid sweat, in consequence of the corn having been injured by wet in the time of the oppression of the Normans by William the Bastard."

In the year 880, a severe battle was fought near Aberconwy between Anarawd, prince of North Wales, and Eadred duke of Mercia; where the Welsh gained a complete victory: it was called "*Gwaith Cymryd Conwy*," because the engagement took place in the township of Cymryd, near Conwy; the prince, however, called it *Dial Rodri*, because he had there avenged his father Rodri, who had been slain by the Saxons in Anglesey; the cause of the war between the Welsh and Mercians was this: the northern Britons of Strathclyd and Cumberland were greatly harassed and weakened by the continued incursions of the Danes, Saxons, and Scots, insomuch that those, who were unwilling to lose their independence, were compelled to quit their native country, and seek for more peaceful and secure habitations. Under the conduct of one Robert, several of them came to Gwynedd or North Wales in the beginning of Anarawd's reign; who, commiserating the sufferings of a kindred nation, granted them all the country between Chester and

the Conwy, if they could expel the Saxons, who had lately taken possession of it : they accordingly attacked them, and speedily drove them out. For three years they had enjoyed peaceful possession, when Eadred, duke of Mercia, called by the Welsh, Edryd Wallt-hir, the long-haired, eager to avenge his ignominious ejection, made a treaty with the Danes, and in conjunction with them made preparations to regain the country. The northern Britons, who were settled there, in the mean time removed their cattle and effects beyond the Conwy ; and Anarawd, having collected his forces, met them at Cymryd, and after a gallant resistance on the part of the Saxons, and a bloody fight, he gave them a complete overthrow. Those who escaped were pursued by the Britons into Mercia, and the victors, having laid waste their borders, returned home laden with booty. The northern Britons were thus enabled to repass the Conwy, and return to their former possessions, which they enjoyed in peace for several years. In this action Tudwal, son of Rodri Mawr, signally distinguished himself, and he was rewarded by his brother with a grant of Uchelogoed or Uchelgoed Gwynedd : from a wound which he received in his knee, he was ever after called Tudwal Glof,

or, the lame. Anarawd also gave very extensive lands to the collegiate churches of Bangor and Clynnoc vawr in Arvon, out of gratitude to God for this great victory.

Dyganwy continued to be the residence of the kings of North Wales until A. D. 810, in the reign of Cynan Tindaethwy, when it was destroyed by lightning, and the town of Aberconwy was built out of the ruins.<sup>7</sup> We are told by Camden, that Hugh Lupus, earl of Chester, fortified Conwy, Mr. Pennant supposes when on his march to Anglesey, in 1098, but it may be doubted whether his fortification was on the west side of the river, I rather suppose it to have been at Dyganwy, which was in a district accounted as part of the possessions of the earl of Chester. The Welsh did not erect a fortress there after the destruction of the city in 810; and the ruins now remaining are those of a castle originally built by Hugh Lupus: Robert of Rhuddlan, who had obtained a grant of several places in the neighbourhood of Rhuddlan from the earl, was probably the con-

<sup>7</sup> "Nomen tamen (Dyganwy) adhuc loco permansit, et ex ejus ruinis ædificata fuit Conovia." Humfr. Lhwyd's Brit. Descript. frag. 54. Edit. 1572.

stable of this castle for his patron, at the time of his death, which happened in the following manner. On the third of July, 1088, prince Gruffydd ab Cynan entered the Conwy with three ships, and landing under the castle at high water, left the ships on shore at the recess of tide. He ravaged the neighbouring country, and drove towards his vessels a great booty of men and cattle. Robert, indignant at this, descended from his fortress, attended by a single soldier, Osbern de Orger, and without any defensive armour except his shield. The Welsh attacked him with missile weapons, and filling his shield so full of darts that it fell under their weight, the enemy rushed on him, cut off his head, and fastening it to the mast, sailed off in savage triumph.<sup>6</sup> The castle was demolished about a century afterwards by Llywelyn the Great. In 1210, Randle Blondevil, earl of Chester, rebuilt the castle of Dyganwy, upon which Llewelyn entered the territories of the earl, and, having laid them waste, returned home with great booty. The continued successes of Llywelyn against his enemies, and the grievous complaints made by the marchers, at last excited the

<sup>6</sup> Pennant's Tour in Wales, 3. 147, 8vo.

king to endeavour to redress his subjects ; he accordingly summoned his lords and those traitors of the Welsh who had sworn allegiance to him, and with a large army he came to Chester, fully determined to execute his vengeance on the inhabitants of this country, and not to leave one alive. In the mean time, Llywelyn, aware of his inability to meet the enemy in the field, had commanded his subjects on the east side of the Conwy, in the present counties of Flint and Denbigh, to remove their cattle and other effects to the fastnesses of the Snowdon mountains; and king John meeting with no opposition, advanced along the coast to Rhuddlan, and thence to the castle of Dyganwy, where he encamped for some time to refresh his wearied army. This event took place in 1211. As he could only depend on having supplies from England, his forces were soon reduced to the greatest straits and misery by the policy of Llywelyn, who had taken possession of the intervening country, and thereby cut off all his resources. All the defiles in the neighbourhood were also in the possession of the Welsh, who slew all that straggled beyond the precincts of the camp. The English, having subsisted for some time upon the flesh of their horses, and having no alternative,



made a disgraceful retreat to England, leaving to Llywelyn the task of burying the great number of their dead, who had been starved in the expedition. We find that in the following August, king John, eager to wipe off the stain of his ignominious retreat, entered Wales a second time; and in this expedition he crossed the Conwy, and encamped in Arvon; he sent part of his forces to Bangor, which they burnt to the ground, and took the bishop prisoner. A reconciliation however took place through the instrumentality of the princess Joan, who was king John's daughter, and was married to Llywelyn; the English king then retired to England with honour, and greater success than he had gained before.

In 1213, Owen, the son of David ab Owen Gwynedd, had a grant from King John of the three cantrevs of Rhos, Rheveiniog, and Dyffryn Clwyd, excepting the castle of Gannock, or Dyganwy, and the territory of Creiddyn, where the castle stood. But Owen, together with his father David, soon after met the reward of his ingratitude and treason, being killed by prince Llywelyn at Conwy.<sup>9</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Sir John Wynne's Gwydir History, 13.

In the following year, king John having inhumanly murdered the Welsh hostages in his power, who were the sons of our nobility, twenty-eight in number, Llywelyn laid siege to the king's castles between the Dee and Conwy, all of which he took, and among the number was the castle of Dyganwy; thereby freeing North Wales from the insupportable tyranny, and oppression of the English garrisons.

In 1245, when John de Grey of Wilton was constable, Dyganwy was again visited by a royal army. Henry III. having summoned prince David, and all the barons of Wales, to do homage at Westminster, and to answer for the depredations laid to their charge, determined, on their refusal to appear, to carry into effect his intentions of the entire subjugation of Wales: the English parliament accordingly granted him the necessary supplies, and on this occasion there was an extraordinary assessment of forty shillings for every knight's fee, called the scutage of Gannock. All his barons, and others who held of the king by knight's service and serjeantry, were summoned to attend him to Wales. Having completed all his formidable preparations, the king advanced as far as

Dyganwy with a great army of English and Gascons, fully purposing to slay all the inhabitants, and to destroy the country. Although he reached this place unmolested, he dared not venture to cross the Conwy, and follow the Welsh into the mountains of Snowdon. He accordingly halted, and during the ten weeks that he remained here, his army by reason of their great numbers was encamped without the walls, and was exposed to many inconveniences: the soldiers suffered greatly from being thinly clad, and having no other covering than tents made of linen. They were also greatly harassed, and their numbers reduced by the incessant attacks of the Welsh, who cut off all stragglers, and endeavoured to storm their camp. The intervening country being again in possession of the Welsh, and all intercourse with England prevented, the king and his army were reduced to a most deplorable state of famine. Some of the events which occurred here at this period, and the miseries they suffered, are told in the following letter, written by a courtier in the camp to a friend in England.

“ The king with the army is encamped at Gannock, and is busy in fortifying that place (suffi-

ciently strong already) about which we lay in our tents, in watching, fasting, praying, and freezing. We watch for fear of the Welsh, who were used to come suddenly upon us in the night time: we fast for want of provision, the halfpenny loaf being now risen and advanced to five-pence: we pray that we may speedily return safe and scot-free home: and we freeze for want of winter garments, having but a thin linen shirt to keep us from the wind. There is a small arm of the sea under the castle where we lay, which the tide reached, by the conveniency of which, many ships bring us provision and victuals from Ireland and Chester: this arm lies betwixt us and Snowden, where the Welsh are encamped, and is in breadth, when the tide is in, about a bow-shot. Now it happened, that upon the Monday before Michaelmas-day, an Irish vessel came up to the mouth of the haven; with provision to be sold to our camp, which being negligently looked to by the mariners, was upon the low ebb stranded on the other side of the castle, near the Welsh. The enemy perceiving this, descended from the mountains, and laid siege to the ship, which was fast upon the dry sands; whereupon we detached in boats three hundred Welsh of the borders of Cheshire and Shropshire,

with some archers and armed men, to rescue the ship; but the Welsh, upon the approach of our men, withdrew themselves to their usual retirements in the rocks and the woods, and were pursued for about two miles by our men on foot, who slew a great number of them. But in their return back, our soldiers being too covetous and greedy of plunder, among other sacrilegious and profane actions, spoiled the abbey of Aberconwy, and burnt all the books and other choice utensils belonging to it. The Welsh being distracted at these irreligious practices, got together in great number, and in a desperate manner setting upon the English, killed a great number of them, and following the rest to the water-side, forced as many as could not make their escape into the boats, to commit themselves to the mercy of the waves. Those they took prisoners they thought to reserve for exchange; but hearing how we put some of their captive nobility to death, they altered their minds, and in a revengeful manner scattered their dilacerated carcasses along the surface of the water. In this conflict, we lost a considerable number of our men, and chiefly those under the command of Richard earl of Cornwall; as Sir Alan Buscell, Sir Adam de Maio, Sir Geoffry Estuemy,

and one Raimond a Gascoign, with about an hundred common soldiers. In the mean time, Sir Walter Bisset stoutly defended the ship till midnight, when the tide returned; whereupon the Welsh, who assailed us on all sides, were forced to withdraw, being much concerned that we had so happily escaped their hands. The cargo of this ship was three hundred hogsheads of wine, with plenty of other provision for the army, which at that time it stood in very great need of. But the next morning when the sea was returned, the Welsh came merrily down again to the ship, thinking to surprise our men, but as luck would have it, they had at full sea the night before relinquished the ship, and returned safe to the camp. The enemy missing our men, set upon the cargo of the ship, carried away all the wine and other provisions; and then, when the sea began to flow, they set fire to the vessel, and returned to the rest of the army. And thus we lay encamped in great misery and distress for want of necessities, exposed to great and frequent dangers, and in great fear of the private assaults and sudden incursions of our enemies. Oftentimes we set upon and assailed the Welsh, and in one conflict we carried away a hundred head of cattle, which very tri-

umphantly we conveyed to our camp. For the scarcity of provision was then so great, that there remained but one hogshead of wine in the whole army, a bushel of corn being sold for twenty shillings, a fed ox for three or four marks, and a hen for eight-pence; so that there happened a very lamentable mortality, both of man and horse, for want of necessary sustenance of life.”<sup>1</sup>

Having undergone such miseries as are here described, king Henry found his position no longer tenable, and he accordingly retreated with his army, without having performed any of his intentions, or having gained the least advantage.

The succeeding prince of Wales, Llywelyn ab Gruffydd, in 1258, having successfully carried his arms into Cheshire, caused king Henry a second time to invade Wales with an immense army; for he had brought together the whole strength of England: he advanced, without opposition, to Dyganwy, but his further progress, and stay for any length of time, was prevented by the skill of Llywelyn, who had conveyed to the other side of

<sup>1</sup> Math. Paris. quoted in Wynne's History of Wales. p. 266.

the river all manner of provision and forage, and had secured all the narrow passages, where the English might have crossed the river. Henry was again compelled to make an inglorious retreat, not without suffering a considerable loss.

In 1262, the castle of Dyganwy, which was of so much importance to the English, and so dangerous to the safety of Wales, was taken and totally demolished by Llywelyn.

The English monarch, irritated by the loss of Dyganwy, determined now to send his son Edward with an army against Llywelyn; for Dyganwy, being situated on the coast, was open to receive a continual supply of soldiers and provision; and commanding one of the principal passes of Wales, its garrison was frequently enabled to cut off the excursionary parties of the Welsh; being likewise a place of great strength in point of structure and situation, it afforded the English a secure retreat upon any disaster. Llywelyn having retired to the west side of the Conwy, Edward, who found it too difficult an attempt to follow him into Snowdon, withdrew his forces; and the pretext of his retreat was a recall by his father on an



affair of importance. In 1277, the king of England, having subdued the intervening country, advanced at the head of a large army into Conwy, where he remained quiet, fully determined to starve Llywelyn into submission. The latter having no resources, for Anglesey, the granary of Wales, was in the hands of the English, was at length compelled, for the sake of his suffering people, to propose an accommodation with Edward; a peace was accordingly concluded on the most mortifying terms, and afterwards ratified in the king's absence, by the commissioners of the two princes at Aberconwy.<sup>2</sup> For some years Llywelyn submitted to the ungenerous and atrocious insults offered him by the English king; but in 1282, the patience of the Welsh being totally exhausted, they rose in arms, and endeavoured to obtain some alleviation of their miseries. Edward eagerly seized the opportunity of destroying Llywelyn, and joining Wales to England: about the first of November he left Rhuddlan, and advanced with his army to Aberconwy, where he stationed it in advantageous positions in the neighbourhood; and Edward was here when he had the satisfaction of receiving the head of his brave but unfortunate

<sup>2</sup> Rymer.



constable of the castle for the time being should be mayor, and assigning it considerable privileges. William Sikun was first appointed to that office.<sup>3</sup> The following is a translation of the charter granted at the time, and the original is inserted in the Appendix.

“ THE KING—To archbishops, &c. greeting,  
—Know ye, That we will and grant for us and our heirs, that our town of Aberconwey become a free borough, and our men of the same town free burgesses; and that the constable of our castle of Aberconwey for the time being be mayor of the same borough, sworn as well to us as to the same burgesses, who first having taken the oath to preserve our rights shall swear to the said burgesses upon the holy evangelists of God, that he will preserve the same liberties to the said burgesses by us granted, and faithfully perform that, which to the office of mayor may belong in the same borough. Also we grant that the said burgesses yearly choose from amongst themselves on the feast of Saint Michael, two fit and sufficient bailiffs, and to such their constable as well as mayor

<sup>3</sup> Ayloffe's *Rotuli Walliæ*, 92.

present, who, in the presence of the said mayor and burgesses, shall swear, That the office of bailiff they will faithfully do, and execute. Also, we will and grant that the said Burgesses have their persons free in the borough aforesaid of all trespasses there, except in cases of life and limb, in all which cases all men, as well burgesses as others, shall be imprisoned in our castle there. Nevertheless if any of our said burgesses shall be sued, accused, or indicted upon any trespass in any of those cases, We will that on that account they be imprisoned, until they shall find good and sufficient bail to abide the right thereof before our chief justice, or other our justices assigned in this behalf. Moreover we grant to the same burgesses, that all land, to the same borough now assigned, be altogether diswarrened and deafforested. And that Jews dwell not in the same borough at any time. We grant also for us and our heirs to the said burgesses the underwritten liberties, to wit,—That no one of our sheriffs on any occasion intrudes himself upon them in any plea or quarrel or cause or any other matter to the said town belonging, (saving always to us and our heirs pleas of our crown as is before mentioned) and that they have

a merchant's guild with a hanse,<sup>4</sup> and other customs, and liberties, to that guild belonging. Also, that no one, who be not of the guild, shall traffic in the same town, unless from the permission of the aforesaid burgesses. We also grant to them, if any native<sup>5</sup> of any one shall tarry in the aforesaid town and hold land in the same, and shall be in the aforesaid guild and hanse and lot and scot with our same men for a year and a day without challenge, then he cannot be recovered by his lord, but in the same town he shall remain free. Moreover we grant to our same burgesses, that they have sok,<sup>6</sup> and salc,<sup>7</sup> tol<sup>8</sup> and team,<sup>9</sup> and infangene thof.<sup>10</sup> And that they be quit through all our land of toll, lestage, passage, menage, pontage, and stallage. And of lene danegeld, and gaywite, and all other customs and exactions

<sup>4</sup> *Hanse*, An association to insure the safe passage of goods, &c.

<sup>5</sup> *Native*, A person born a servant.

<sup>6</sup> *Sok*, Stit of Court within a manor or borough.

<sup>7</sup> *Salc*, Liberty of holding pleas, and enjoying the forfeiture of offenders.

<sup>8</sup> *Tol*, Liberty to buy and sell within a borough: also exemption from custom.

<sup>9</sup> *Team*, The right conferred of judging, restraining, and having bondmen, natives, and villeins, with their issue, goods, and chattels.

<sup>10</sup> *Infangene thof*, The right of judging thieves taken in the borough.

through all our dominions as well in England as in all other our lands. And that they, or their goods be not arrested for any debt, of which they be not the sureties, or principal debtors, unless it happen that the said debtors be of their commonalty and having in their power, whereof they can satisfy their debts in whole or in part, and our said burgesses being deficient in justice to the creditors of the same debtors, and of this reasonable proof shall be made. And that our same burgesses for the trespass, or forfeiture of their servants, do not lose their goods and chattels found in the hands of them, or in any place deposited by their said servants, so far forth as they can sufficiently prove them to be theirs. And also that if the same burgesses or any of them die within our kingdom or dominion testate or intestate, We or our heirs will not cause the goods of such persons to be confiscated; but their heirs shall wholly enjoy the same so far as they may consist of the said chattels of the said deceased persons, provided that nevertheless sufficient notice, or assurance be had of the same heirs. And that our burgesses aforesaid be not convicted by any persons residing out of the said borough, upon any appeal, right, injury, trespass, crimes, damages, demands, im-

posed, or to be imposed upon them from Kaernarvon unto the water of Cloyt, but only by our aforesaid burgesses; unless concerning any thing touching the commonalty of the aforesaid borough, and then in that case they be dealt with according to the liberties approved, and theretofore reasonably used in our city of Hereford. Wherefore we will, and firmly command for us, and our heirs, that our town of Aberconwey henceforth be a free borough, and our men of the same town be free burgesses, and the constable of our castle of Aberconwey for the time being be mayor of the same borough, sworn as well to us as to the same burgesses, who, first taking the said oath to preserve our rights, shall then swear upon the holy evangelists of God, that he will preserve the liberties granted by us to the same burgesses, and faithfully perform that, which to the office of mayor belongs in the same borough. And that the said burgesses every year on the feast of St. Michael, choose from amongst themselves two fit and sufficient bailiffs, and to the same constable as well as their mayor shall present, who in the presence of the said mayor shall be sworn that they faithfully perform and execute their office of bailiff. Also, we will and grant that the said burgesses

have their persons free in the borough aforesaid, from all trespasses there (except in cases of life and limb) and in which cases all persons as well burgesses as others shall be imprisoned in our castle there. Nevertheless if any of our said burgesses be sued, accused, or indicted upon any trespasses, in those cases we will that on that account they be imprisoned, until they find good, and sufficient sureties to abide the right thereof before our chief justice, or other justices assigned in that behalf. Moreover we grant to the same burgesses that all land to the same borough now assigned shall be altogether diswarrened and deafforested. And that the Jews dwell not at any time in the same borough. Also we will and grant for us and our heirs that the aforesaid burgesses have all other liberties and free customs above expressed well and peaceably, without let, or impediment of us, our heirs, justices, sheriffs, and others our bailiffs, and ministers whatsoever for ever, as is above expressed. Witness the venerable father R. bishop of Bath and Wells, our chancellor, Richd. de Burg Com. Ulton, Thomas de Clare, Richd. de Brus, Reginald de Grey, Nicholas de Segraue, Peter de Champnent, John de Monte Alto, and others.—Given under our hand at



**Flynt 8th day of September, in the twelfth year of our reign.”<sup>1</sup>**

**In the 18th year of his reign, he also granted that the burgesses of Aberconwy should be quit of toll, throughout the kingdom.<sup>2</sup>**

**In 1290, the Welsh again rose up in arms against the authority of Edward, under Madog a son of prince Llywelyn. The cause of this rising was the following; Edward was engaged in a dispute with the king of France, and he was determined to avenge himself by force of arms; to obtain supplies for the war he made the experiment of taxation on his new subjects the Welsh, which they resenting, hanged Roger de Pulesdon, who had been appointed to collect the tax, and defeated the English forces who first opposed them. “Alarmed at a revolt which was now rising into importance, and which menaced the safety of his new dominions, Edward came into north Wales to conduct the war in person. Having proceeded in his march to Conwy, he crossed that arm of the**

<sup>1</sup> Editor's unpublished MS. see original in the Appendix.

<sup>2</sup> Ayliffe's *Rutuli Wallie*.

sea with a part of his forces; and retiring into the castle waited for the remainder of his army to follow. In his passage he lost many waggons and other carriages loaded with victuals, which had been intercepted by the Welsh; who, in great multitudes, came down from the mountains, and invested the castle on the side of the land. A sudden rise in the Conwy, preventing his troops from passing the river, and affording him any assistance, rendered Edward's situation exceedingly alarming; he was in great want of provisions, was cut off from his army, and was surrounded on every side by water and the enemy. The distress of the garrison was so great with respect to provisions, that Edward, in common with the soldiers, was obliged to eat salted meat, and the coarse bread which was found in the castle, and to use water likewise for his drink mixed with honey. In this perilous state, when any moment might have been fatal, Edward's usual good fortune attended him. The Conwy suddenly subsiding, his forces were enabled to cross the water and come to his relief. The Welsh then abandoned the siege, and retired to the mountains of Snowdon. The English king, on the enemy's retreat, passed

the Christmas holidays without molestation in the castle of Conwy.”<sup>3</sup>

In 1301, the English prince of Wales, afterwards Edward II. came down to Aberconwy, where he received the homage of Eineon, bishop of Bangor, and David, abbot of Maenan.

9. Edward II. That king granted to the burgesses their town and hamlets.

5. Edward III. The burgesses paid 20 shillings fine to the king, for the confirmation of their charter.

Subsequently in the same reign, a quo warranto was issued, calling upon the bailiffs and burgesses of Conwy, to show by what authority they claim to have the town of Aberconwy; two mills, lands, and a piece near the castle in free farm, and to exercise the corporate privileges enumerated in the charter of 12. Edward I. The bailiffs and burgesses pleaded the charter of Edward I. the charter of confirmation of 9. Edward II. and the

<sup>3</sup> Warrington's History of Wales.

further charter of confirmation of 5. Edward III. They then proceed to plead specifically each clause and word. The question at issue seemed to be, whether they had a right to take money on releasing persons out of prison, and whether the sheriff of the county had any right to execute writs within the borough in certain cases; but the result of these proceedings is, that the complaint was dismissed.

2. Richard II. A fine was again paid by the burgesses for the confirmation of the charter of their liberties.<sup>4</sup>

In 1399, the unfortunate king Richard, finding, on his arrival at Caermarthen, that the Welsh army under the earl of Salisbury had been disbanded before his arrival from Ireland, retired to Aberconwy, and shut himself up in the castle, which was deemed impregnable, but at that time unprovided of all necessaries. Richard, finding himself almost alone, and without any prospect of being able to defend himself, had no other resource than to throw himself upon the generosity of his enemy. He sent him word by one of his attend-

<sup>4</sup> Harleian MSS. in the British Museum. 696. No. 99.

ants that he was ready to submit to what terms he himself should think reasonable, and desired him to send some person to confer with him. The duke of Lancaster immediately despatched the archbishop of Canterbury, and Percy earl of Northumberland, both sworn enemies of the king, to know his intentions. They solemnly assured him, that the duke only wished to have his alienated property restored, and the ancient privileges of parliament confirmed. The king appearing to distrust the earl's professed good intentions, the latter to remove all suspicion attended at high mass, vowed fidelity, and swore allegiance at the altar. Caught in this wily and iniquitous snare, the king accompanied Northumberland out of the gate, but about Penman rhos, he perceived a band of soldiers, bearing the banners of Percy. The king found himself betrayed, and was taken prisoner to Flint castle, where he was delivered into the hands of his cruel enemy the duke of Lancaster.

At the time of Owain Glyndwr's insurrection, in the beginning of the fifteenth century, John de Mascy was constable of Conwy castle: he had fifteen men at arms and sixty archers with him: 39s. 2d. were allowed to maintain this fortress

per day, amounting in the year to £714. 15s. 10d.<sup>5</sup>

The following letter, written probably in 1404, gives us the name of Henry de Scharisbrec, as lieutenant of Conwy castle; and, with the other two, is valuable, as furnishing us with some historical accounts of a period, of which our records are extremely scanty.

<sup>5</sup> From a MS. in old French, preserved in the British Museum. MS. Cotton. Cleop. F. III. fol. 111, which was written in Glyn-dwr's time; it shews that the Welsh castles were not at this time very extensively garrisoned, and it furnishes the actual state of many of them. Caernarvon had John Bolde for its constable, with twenty men at arms and eighty archers: the annual maintenance amounted to £900. 6s. 8d. Crukkith castle had Roger de Accon for constable, with six men at arms and fifty archers: annual maintenance £416. 14s. 2d. Hardelagh had Dycon de Mascy for constable, with ten men at arms and thirty archers: yearly maintenance £389. 6s. 8d. These were the castles in North Wales belonging to the Prince: the total of their charges amounting to £2421. 3s. 4d. Denbigh castle belonged to the earl of March, and had been granted to Henry Percy: Beaumaris also belonged to Henry Percy, with the Isle of Anglesea. Of these castles Mons<sup>r</sup>. de Rutland, with thirty men at arms and a hundred and twenty archers, kept Denbigh, at an annual expense of £1672. 18s. 4d.: John de Pulle, with fifteen men at arms and a hundred and forty archers, kept Beaumaris, at the yearly expense of £988. 10s. 10d. The castles which belonged to the Prince, as Chamberlain of Chester, were Rudhlan and Flint. Of Rudhlan Henry de Conewey was constable, who kept it with nine men at arms and forty archers, at an expense of £422. 15s. 10d. Of Flint, Nicholas Hauberk was constable, with four men at arms and twelve archers: expense, £146 per annum. Ellis' Original Letters, vol. 1. second series.

*Henry of Scharisbrec, Lieutenant of Conway Castle, to William Venables of Kinderton, Constable of Chester, and Roger Brescy.*

“ RYGHT worschipful Sirs I comand me to zow lawly, dissyryng euirmore to here of zoure worschipe, the whyche I pray to God euyrmore encrease. Worschepful Sirs if hit lyke zow to wete the abot of Conway has send wort to some of the godmen of the ton and to me, how that ther arne comyn vi Schippis owte of Fraunce in to Llene w<sup>th</sup> wyn and specery ful ladyn. Wherefore, worschepful Sirs, wold ze voche saue to send word to my lord or to his consayl therof, if thai wil oght ordayn for hom; for worschepful Sirs, vs thynke that and thay wer takyn hastyly hit wer grete profyt, in a gret abayschyng to oure enmyes. Worschepful Sirs, the Holy Ghost kepe zow in hon's. Wrytyn at Conwey the xxvj day of Feuyrzer.

Be HENR. OF SCHARISBREC

*Leutenant to Sir John of Bolde at Conway.*

The successes of Owen put the constables of the various castles on the alert, and some historical notices may be gleaned from the following letters,<sup>6</sup> of Reynald of Bayldon, who styles him-

<sup>6</sup> Ellis' Original Letters, vol. 1. second series.

self one of the keepers of Conway; and Henry of Scharisbrec, acquainting the above Venables and Brescy that Owen was likely to get possession of Harlech castle.

*Reynald of Bayldon, one of the Keepers of Conway to William Venables, Constable of Chester, and Roger Brescy.*

“ WORSHIPFUL Sirs I recomaunde me to zow with al my herte; doying zow to wndirstonde that al Caernaruan shire purposin hem in al the haste that thae mae for to go into the yle of Anglesey for to haue owte al the men and al the catel there, and for to bryng hit with hem into the mowntens, lest Englishemen shulde be refreshitte therwith. Also the Frenshemen makyn al the ordenaunce that thae mae or can for to assaele the towne of Caernaruan in al the haste that thae mae, knowyng wel that the towne is more febil nowe then hit was the laste tyme that thae were before hit; forasmuche as a hepe of the beste that were in Caernaruan that tyme bene god betaghte sethin, and as hit semeth to me hit were nedeful that thae hade helpe in haste tyme. Ferthirmore hit was done me to witte this same dae be a mon of Kryketh for certen, that William Hunte Con-



stabil of Hardelagh, opon teisdæ that laste was, cam owte of the Castel for to trete with the rebell withowte any ostage laede in for hym. And that the same tyme Robin of Holond, and othir with hym, the wheche toke Jankyn Euor, laede honde opon the same William and lad hym awae, and two zemen with hym ; one, Jak Mercer, and that othir Harry Baker. And what thae did with hem, I cannot sæ at this tyme. Also Fevian Colier is full seke, gif he be on life ; and mony of the sowdiors bene dede there of the pestelence, and sum drevyn out amonge the rebell, and sum gone into Englund, and sum slaene in the wae toward Englund. But Sir Lewes and the remenant of the sowdiors kepyn the castel welynogh yet. Also will ze witte, that the sowdiors there tokyn the keis of the Castell from the same constabil for sum thinges that thae fonde with hym, and tokyn him to Fivean and to sir Lewes, for to have hem in kepyng al this qwarter of a zere gone. Wherfore, I beceche zow hertly that ze wil sende warnyng to my lord, in al the haste that ze mae wel, towching the maters before sæde, so that my lorde mae be aviset whatte is best to do thereof. Also dure sirs I dar sæ to zow in councel that I durste lae my hede that and there were two hundret men in

Conowey, and two hundret in Caernaruan, abiding there from condilmesse in til the fest of saynt Ph. and Jacob, that the commuyns of Caen'shire woldyn cum to pees, and pae hor duitis to my lord as wel as evir thae diddyn; and zif hit be tariet til sumyr hit wil not be solightly, for then the rebell mae lie withowte, and so thae mae not nowe. Also I have herde my selfe mony of the gentilmen and of the commyns of M'yonnythshire and of Caern'shire swere that al men of the forsaede shirs excepte fowre or five gentilmen and a fewe vacaboundis, woldin faene cum to pees so that Englishemen were lafte in the cuntre for to help to kepe hom from mysdoers, and namely for to cum into the cuntre whil the weddir were colde. And hit semeth to mony men hit were bettyr that suche a cumpany were in the cuntre for to make leve of my lord is dette, and for to take hor wagys of the same dette, then for to lette the rebell haue al. More con J not write at this tyme, but God that is heuen king have zow in his holy kepyng. Writtyn in hast at the ton of Conowey, the settirdae nexte aftr the feste of the Epiphanie.

Zor poure servant,

REYNALD OF BAYLDON,

*One of the Keeperz of Conowey.*

*Henry of Scharisbrec to William Venables and Roger Brescy, that Owen Glyndwr was likely to get possession of Harlech Castle.*

“ WORSCHPEFFUL Siris if hit like zow to wete there is a lytil mon w<sup>t</sup> Hawel Vaghan that was takyn when the constabull of Hardlagh was takyn, and is sworne to Awyn agaynis his will, and he has sendys vs word priuily how his maystyr has word for soche that Awyn has byen at Hardlagh and is accordit with all the men that arne theinne save vij, for to have dilyverance of the Castell at a certayn day for a certayn some of gold, and the day is in ryght hasty tyme but he wot not when, and bot if hit be ryght sone ordaynt fore hit is lost and so is all the countre ther aboute. Worschipful Sir, wil ze vouchesafe when ze hau oversen this, to send hit to my maystir Sir John of Bolde, and makis ordinance as zo thenke be to do. Worschipful Sirs, the holy Trinitie kepe zow. Wrytyn in grete hast at Conway, the xxvi day of feuyrzer. From

HENR. OF SCHARISBREC.”

These three letters were written about the year 1404.

During the civil wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, Conwy castle was the scene of much contention. It is recorded, that the friends of one party gained possession of it, while the influential family of Gryffyth Goch, and many equally powerful in the neighbourhood, were in arms for the other : it happened that his son Rhys, who had gone either out of curiosity, or more probably for the purpose of examining the strength of the place, was standing at Tal y sarn, on the opposite side of the river, when he was slain by an arrow discharged from the castle by Llywelyn of Nannau. As the distance is considerably more than half a mile, this is probably one of the longest shots on record. A few nights after, Robin ab Gryffyth Goch o'r Graianllyn, and his brother Hywel, with their followers, crossed the river, to avenge the death of their brother Rhys ; they took the castle by escalade, and beheaded the captain.<sup>7</sup> Sir John Wynne, in his history of the Gwydir family, observes, that the whole country around was laid waste by the partisans of the two factions ; and utterly desolated by Lord Herbert, earl of

<sup>7</sup> O'r tu uchaf i Gonwy (medd yr hen hanes) y saethasai Llywelyn o Nannau y bicell hon, a llâs Rhys dros Gonwy : a llyma un o'r ergydion pellaf y llâs dyn erioed. See Cylchgrawn. 1. 255.

Pembroke. In 1466, Thomas ab Robin, of Cochwillan, was beheaded, near the castle, by his lordship's order, on account of his staunch adherence to the Lancastrians ; and his wife is reported to have carried away his head in her apron.\*

Richard III. in the first or second year of his reign, granted to " Thomas Tunstall, Esq. the office of constable of the castel of Conway, with the captainship of the towne of Conway, and to have under him the number of twenty-four soldiers for the time of his life, with the wages and fees to the same office and captaynship due and accustomed, and to have for every of the said soldiers 4*d.* by the day."<sup>9</sup>

4. Henry VII. a fine of twenty shillings was paid into the hanaper office, for the confirmation of divers liberties and franchises granted to the burgesses by the king and his predecessors. The charter was again confirmed by Henry VIII, 1 Edward VI, and 3 Elizabeth.

\* Gwydir History, 46.

<sup>9</sup> MS. Harl. 433. quoted in Grose's *Antiquities*, and Bingley's *Tour in North Wales*.

The town of Aberconwy had obtained the great privileges mentioned above from Edward I. in order that he might have a body of Englishmen, besides the garrisons of his castles, to maintain his power in Wales ; all that held office in his towns of Aberconwy, Caernarvon, and Beaumaris, were exclusively English : in course of time, however, some Welshmen crept into office, which the English burgesses looked upon as an infringement of their rights, considering Wales as a foreign country subjected to the English, but the inhabitants by no means entitled to have any share of the advantages of their own land. They accordingly presented the following memorial to the king and his parliament : it is a curious and interesting document, and shows the jealous feelings entertained by the two nations towards each other. The date of it is in the commencement of Henry VII.'s reign, if not earlier.

“ TO THE KINGES HIGHNES *and to his honorable Counsell of this present Parliament.*

“ GREUOUSLIE Complaininge sheweth unto yo<sup>r</sup> moste Honorable good Lordshipps and discreat Wisdome yo<sup>r</sup> poore Orators all the whole Corporat body of the Cominaltie of The Burges-

ses of the Englishe Waled Towne of Conway In Northwalles, that whereas the kings noble progenitor of Most famousse memorie kinge Edward the first, whose soule Jesus pardone, constructed and builded the Castell of Conway, in the foresaid Towne, after the Conquest and subduinge of Wales, with other Castelles and townes ther and replenished The same with Captains, Souldiors, and Burgesses Englishe, for The surtie of Englishemen, and for the perpetuall peace and good rule of Northwales to be for euermore; and for the continual Edificacion in nourishinge of Englishemen by act of his parliament next after the same tyme by his noble Chartor graunted Diverse liberties to the Burgesses of the said Towne, ther heirs and successors, the which nowe bene yo<sup>r</sup> said Orators. By force wherof, and by force of Diverse Confirmacions of the same, yo<sup>r</sup> said Orators and ther auncestors and predecessors have peaceablie enioyed and had diuerse grete libties and ffranchezes Sithence the tyme of the said king Edward the first, untill Nowe of late, that certaine inhabitants within the said Towne of Conway, But also of the Comots adiacent by Color and misinterpretacion of a Chartor of liberties lat Craftelie obtained by a certaine Spanishe embassator to the welshire

of the Cuntery of Northwales, usurped upon the libties aforesaid of yo<sup>r</sup> said Orators, and occupied the same as largelie as any Burgesse as in bruinge, bakinge, buying, selling, as well in grosse and in retail all man<sup>'</sup> victuales and wyne and other things vendible and changeable, And in forestallinge and regreatinge marketts contrary to the effect of the said auncient Chartor of king Edward with Diverse Confirmacions of the same, against gode peace and the kinges, to the greate hurte, breakinge, subieccion, impouerishment, oppression, and most extreame undoinge of yo<sup>r</sup> said Orators; and in short tyme to come to soe greate and utter desolacion of the said Towne and yo<sup>r</sup> honorable wisdom, and other Officers maye not surelie be receved, lodged, and sued, nor shall Dare bouldlye minister the Lawes accordinge to Juistice. And that, in short, conclusion doubtles shalbe as well to the Kinge losse of all his prerogatyves, rents and proffitts in Northwales, as to the finale Disheryson, destruccion, and Evanquishinge of yo<sup>r</sup> poore Orators, and of the three Englishe Townes in Northwales, onlie it may please yo<sup>r</sup> honorable grace and wise discrecion for the tender mercie of god with pittious compassion, lovinglie advertisinge and consideringe the premisses.



FIRST TO ORDER and redresse at this present parliamente, that yo<sup>r</sup> said Orators ther heirs and successors may enioye and have their said liberties whole and firme without interrupcion or violation of the said forins, as they and there anncestors have had heretofore; and to order the said foreins sythen they would have liberties within the Englishe townes, to be contented with the viij townes, Rutland, Denbiland, Hardlegh, and Bala, in Merrionethshire; Bangor, Pullhelye, Cruketh and Nevyn in Carnarvonshire; and Newburch in Anglesey; of which viij Townes everie Towne is of as greate libertie as any of the three Englishe townes. And which viij townes were inhibited with Englishe men and under English Captaines, and sythen they were put out, and Captaines of the Cuntry put in the said eight townes, be utterly in decaie and desolate of wellthe or Englishe men; and in likewise the said three English townes Conwey, Carnarvon, and Bewmares, upon the Comone weele of Northwales, Shall also be in decaye yf the rule and governance of the same shall goe out of the Englishe mens hands. ALSO, that the Captaines of the said Castells be meere Englishmen, and kepe Englishe shouldiours, and be of grete livelod, and not borne in the Cuntry, and

to be resident upon the same, accordinge to the old Ordinance and statute of Rutland. ALSO, that no foriner shall occupie or use any manner craffte or merchandiz within the said townes and franchezes without licence and agreement of the said Burgesses. ALSO, that frome henffourthe noe man be admitted as Burgesse of the said townes but mere Englishemen, and of good Demeanor. ALSO, that frome henffourthe all and everie Burgesse to be made of the said Townes shall occupie the said liberties, with mere English women, for Copulacions, and mariage with fforens of the Cuntery of Northwales was cause of seduccion of the said Townes, as appeareth of Reeord Ao. R. Henricij iiijo. ALSO, that the said Burgesses yo<sup>r</sup> Orators, be not frome henffourthe Indited by any fforins, and not Inquierment to be of them or against them, or of any land or other thing to be found for the king, within the said towne of Conwey, but only by themsealfes and other Englishe Burgesses of the next towne, being mere Englishe men, as hath bene used heretofore. ALSO, that no shirife, or other officer or minister, returne any Jurie or panels in any cause towchinge yo<sup>r</sup> said Orators, but onlie of themsealves, or of the next towne Englishe. ALSO, that everie and all forine

inhabitants within the said liberties be sworne and put under suertie of ther fidelitie to the said Castell and Towne, and to be peaceablye and of good a beringe against yo' said Orators, and that the were no wepon within the said Towne. ALSO, that according to the statude of Rutland, and ordinance of Northwales, Welshmen shall purchase no land within the Englishe towne or ffrancheze of the same. So that the tenants inhitants of the Comotes of Crythyn, Issaphe, uchaph, and Nantconwey in Carnarvonshire, shall come everye fridaie with ther victailes and Corne to the markett of Conwey as was of old tyme ordeined for the sustentacion of the said Castell and Town. ALSO that the marketts and sale of catell of the said comots be at the marketts and faires of Conwey : and that no sale be made in the mountains, for thereby yo' orators shalbe defeated of the kings towle, parcell of there fee ferme, and purloininge, and sheltre of true mens goods. ALSO, that noe ale nor wyne sould byretaile within viij leuges at the said towne, accordinge to the old ordinance and proclamation. ALSO, that the Chamberlaine, Shirife, or other officers in Northwales, shall give there aide and assistance for the liberties afore said to be kept, and for the peace to be had to yo' said Besechers, so

as they maye ride and goe to the marketts and faires without feare or jopartie of their lyves, and that upon pain of c. marks. ALSO, that all suche as be bound of old ordinance to come and grinde to the king's miles of conwey shall grinde there and in no place els. ALSO, that the porter of Conwey, which is now a Welshman, may be put out, and the office given to an englishe Burgesse inhitinge in the said Towne, for by the Welshe officers the towne hath ofte been Destroyed, for it is no more meete for a welshman to beare any office in Wales, or especiallie in any of the Three englishe Townes then it is for a frinchman to be Officer in Calis, or a skotte in Barwicke. ALSO, that yf any welshman beare any wepon, or make any stirment or fray, within the towne of Conwey, upon any markett or faire daye, that his fine be no less then five pownds. ALSO, that english Burgesses maie inquier, upon forfaitor of mainprisse, for the king's proffitt, and for the good rule of the Cuntery. ALSO, that it maye please the king's highness, of his most abundant grace by acte of this presente parliament, in a mendinge the estate of his Com-burgesses at Conwey, to geve and graunte to his said beschers In fee ffearme the passage of the ferries of Conwey and Cavyn gronant, with there

appurtenances in dowblinge the rent to be paid yerly at his exchequer of Carnarvon, by equal portions. ALSO, the said beschers maye have the Sessions of Carnarvon and merioneth shires holden yerely for ever one at yo<sup>r</sup> said towne of Conwey, to bring the said Towne which is nowe in Decaye, and doth paye yerely to the king's grace £xl. and od money of ffee ffearme, into her former and prosperous welth and estate, and they shall dailie praie for the prosperous estate of the king's grace, and of his Realme. ALSO, to provide that noe Capitall officer to the king's grace, or to any other lord or Lordes in Northweles shall brue alle to sell,<sup>1</sup> or retaile anie wyne in any place of Northweles, for by occasion thereof as well the kings tenants of the cuntrey be pilled and oppressed as yo<sup>r</sup> besechers greatly hindered. ALSO knowe that iij barrlie cornes taken out of the mids of the eere make an ynch, xij ynches make a foote, xvj foote and a halfe make a perch of land, and xl<sup>u</sup> perches in length & foure in breth make an acre of land and iiij acres make a yeard of land and v yeards

<sup>1</sup> The Englishmen did not brew good ale: *Cwrw Aberconwy gorau pei pellaf*; Aberconwy ale the further off the better; says the old proverb.

make a hide of land and viij hides make a knights fee."<sup>2</sup>

In the first year of the reign of queen Mary, John Herle was appointed to the constableness of Conwy castle and stewardship of the abbey of Bardsey. A copy of his commission is inserted in the Appendix.<sup>3</sup>

In 1607, the town was almost depopulated by the plague; and numbers of people were buried in the streets; their bones are frequently found there, when making sewers, and also without the town walls. About forty years ago the lower half of the high-street was repaved, and considerably lowered, when a vast number of skeletons were discovered lying side by side the whole way; many of the bones were of very large dimensions, and some of the jaw-bones are said to have exceeded a span in the distance of the extremities. The pestilence was observed to break out here within three weeks of the time it appeared in London; and it must have reached this place so soon owing to the connection of the inhabitants with England.

<sup>2</sup> Editor's unpublished MS.

<sup>3</sup> Id.

During the civil wars in the reign of Charles I. the importance of Conwy was duly esteemed, and it again became the scene of contention. The most conspicuous character in the history of the town at this period was a native of the place, namely the archbishop of York. He was born in Aberconwy, on the twenty-fifth day of March, 1582. His father, Edmond Williams, Esq. of this town, was the son of William Williams, Esq. of Cochwillan, by Dorothy, the daughter of Sir William Griffith of Penrhyn; and he married the daughter of Owen Wynn, Esq. by whom he had five sons and two daughters; of the sons, John was the youngest. He received the earlier part of his classical education at Rhuthin school, where he gave, at an early age, promises of future distinction. His kinsman, Dr. Vaughan, afterwards bishop of London, aware of his abilities, removed him to Cambridge, where he was entered at St. John's College in 1598; then being in his sixteenth year. His natural parts were so much above the common level, that he soon became distinguished in the university. His memory was wonderfully quick and retentive, and his diligence and application were unbounded; it is recorded of him that from his youth upwards he never re-

quired more than three hours sleep in twenty-four to keep him in perfect health. He was elected into a foundation fellowship for the diocese of Bangor in April, 1603. Being held in great estimation by the fellows of his college, he was frequently employed in transacting business on behalf of the society, and this, subsequently, led to his advancement; having been sent to court to petition the king for a mortmain to increase the maintenance of the master and fellows, he succeeded by his address, and the king and his ministers at this time took particular notice of him. In the twenty-seventh year of his age he took orders, and three years after, archbishop Bancroft conferred on him an arch-deaconry in Wales, probably that of Cardigan, which gave him a seat in the convocation held in 1613. He became so eminent as a public preacher in Cambridge, that he was selected to preach before king James and prince Henry at Royston, to whom he gave the greatest satisfaction. Soon after, he was appointed by lord chancellor Egerton to be his chaplain, and he continued with his patron until his death in 1616, and under his auspices he obtained various preferments. He was then made chaplain in ordinary to the king, who appointed him, of his own accord, dean of



Salisbury in 1619. Having previously taken his doctor's degree, he was appointed dean of Westminster, in 1620, by the marquis of Buckingham. The latter, being in trouble on account of the disputes between the king and his parliament, was advised by the dean how to proceed; his advice was followed, and the marquis brought him to James, who, pleased with his sound judgment, made him one of his privy counsellors, into which office he was sworn in June, 1621. In the following month he was made Keeper of the Great Seal; and although his clerical character was objected to as inconsistent with secular affairs, his charity and exemplary life soon silenced his enemies, and his decisions and abilities on the seat of justice banished the mistaken apprehensions of his ignorance of the law. In the same month that he was made lord keeper, he was appointed to the bishoprick of Lincoln: he was now high in his royal master's favour, and through his interest Dr. Laud was advanced to the bishoprick of St. David's, who afterwards proved to be the most virulent of the keeper's enemies. His conduct in the court of chancery, the star-chamber, and in parliament, made him justly popular, and his advice to the king on several important occasions gave the greatest satis-

faction. The keeper continued in favour with the king until his death in March, 1625, at which time he was present, and closed his majesty's eyes with his own hands. With the accession of Charles, his fall and troubles commenced. His former patron, the duke of Buckingham, had conceived an implacable enmity against him, and by constant intrigues he succeeded in persuading the king to deprive him of the seals, which were accordingly given up in October, 1625. The duke was also excited by bishop Laud, whose ambition feared no rival except the lord keeper. The latter, however, was highly popular among the people, and had his advice been followed by the king's ministers, the country would probably have escaped the miseries of civil war. After the death of the duke of Buckingham in 1628, the enmity of the court was kept up and fomented by bishop Laud, whose aim was the total ruin of his rival. The troubles of the latter increased, and, besides other vexatious proceedings against him, he was subjected to a trial in the star-chamber, which ended in his being condemned to pay a fine of ten thousand pounds to the king, to be imprisoned during his majesty's pleasure, and to be suspended from all his offices and dignities. After an impri-

sonment in the Tower for three years and a half, the bishop was released, and his talents were employed by Charles in endeavouring to appease the seditions and troubles that now began to wear a serious aspect. Although Charles would not listen to the advice of the bishop, who remonstrated against his going to Scotland, he soon after raised him to the archbishopric of York. In the difficulties to which the bishops were subjected by the parliament, we find his grace, notwithstanding the strong opposition, an able champion in defence of episcopacy; but, as the parliament was now taking up arms against the king, the archbishop was compelled to leave his diocese, and he came to his native town of Aberconwy in 1642. As the castle and the fortifications of the town required but a little charge to be put in proper repair, he immediately set about gathering forces, raising money, and strengthening the king's interest in this country: although this was done without any order, and at his own cost; the king, upon hearing of his loyalty, wrote to him several kind letters; one of which, as more immediately relating to the castle, is here inserted.

*From Oxford, Aug. 1. 1643.*

“ Charles R.

“ Most Reverend Father in God, &c. We are informed by our servant Orlando Bridgman, not only of the good encouragement and assistance you have given him in our service, but also of your own personal and earnest endeavours to promote it. And tho’ we have had long experience of your fidelity, readiness, and zeal in what concerns us, yet it cannot but be most acceptable unto us that you still give unto us fresh occasions to remember it. And we pray you to continue to give all possible assistance to our said servant. And whereas you are now resident at our town of Aberconway, where there is a castle, heretofore belonging to our crown, and now to the Lord Conway, which with some charge is easily made defensible : but the Lord Conway being imprisoned by some of our rebellious subjects, and not able to furnish it, as is requisite for our service, and the defence of those parts; you having begun at your own charge to put the same into repair, We do heartily desire you to go on in that work, assuring you that whatsoever moneys you shall lay out upon the fortification of the said castle shall be repay’d unto you, before the custody thereof shall be put into any

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other hand than your own, or such as you shall recommend."

On the back of this letter, in accordance with the king's promise, the archbishop has written;—

" I Jo. archbishop of York, have assign'd my Nephew Mr. Wil. Hooks, Esq. alderman of Conway, to have the custody of this castle, mentioned in his Majesty's Letter under his Signet, until I shall be repay'd the moneys, and money-worth disbursed by me in the repair thereof, by virtue of this Warrant. And in case of Mortality, I do assign my Nephew Gryffith Williams to the same effect. Jan. 2. 1643."<sup>4</sup>

His grace was summoned some time after to attend the king's council at Oxford, where he arrived in January, 1644. Although subsequent events fully proved the sagacity of his advice, he could not prevail upon the king to adopt his plans, and finding that he could be of greater advantage in Wales, he returned to Aberconwy in the beginning of spring. The inhabitants of the neighbouring country, anxious about their property, solicited

<sup>4</sup> Life by Phillips, 288.

and obtained leave from the archbishop to place their plate and most valuable effects in the castle for security; and each person had an inventory of what he brought there. About a year after, Sir John Owen of Clenennau, who was a colonel in the king's service, prevailed upon prince Rupert to appoint him commander of the castle, notwithstanding that his grace had the king's warrant to hold possession, until the money expended on the fortifications should be repaid: the prince himself had also agreed to this arrangement, and had even commanded by his letters that all officers by land and sea should assist the archbishop in making the place as strong as possible. Sir John, however, surprised it, and entered it by force; upon which captain James Martin was sent to the king at Oxford with the following remonstrance from the archbishop;

1. " Upon the ninth of May, 1645, Sir J. Owen governour of Conway, about seven of the clock in the evening, before the night-guard was sent into the castle, the possession whereof was placed by the king in the archbishop of York, and his assigns, upon great and valuable considerations by his gracious Letters, and under his Majesty's

Hand and Signet, bearing date at *Oxford*, *August* 1, 1643. did, with bars of iron and armed men, break the Locks and Doors, and enter into the said castle, and seize upon the Place, the Victuals, Powder, Arms, and Ammunition, laid in by the said archbishop at his own charge, without the least contribution from the king or the country, for the defence of the place, and the service of the king and the said country.

2. "That being demanded by the said archbishop to suffer two of the said archbishop's men to be there with his rabble of grooms and beggerly people, to see the goods of the country preserved from filching, and the victuals and ammunition from wasting and purloyning, Sir John in a furious manner utterly refused it, though all the company cried upon him to do so for his own discharge, yet would he not listen to any reason, but promised the next day to suffer all things to be inventoried, and the Lord Archbishop to take away what he would, Sir John acknowledging all the goods and ammunition to be his.

3. "The next day he receded again from all this, would not permit at the entreaty of the bi-

shop of St. Asaph, his own Cousin-German, any of the archbishop's men to go and look to the goods, nor suffer his servants to fetch forth for his grace's use (who hath lingered long under a great sickness and weakness) either a little wine, to make him some cawdles, or so much as a little of his own stale beer, to make him possets, which all the country conceive to be very barbarous.

4. "The said Sir John continueth rambling from place to place, and detaineth still all the goods of the country, laid up in this castle, as conceived to be owned by the Archbishop, who was like to be responsal for them; and had duly returned them in other years: and threatens to seize the plate, and all things else of value to his own use. Than which no rebel or enemy could deal more outrageously.

5. "The Archbishop desires his majesty would repossess him of the right of this castle, according to his majesty's grant made upon valuable consideration. And that if his majesty's pleasure be, that Sir Jo. Owen (or any other man of more moderation and less precipitancy) should be there, he come under the Archbishop his assignment, as



right requires, and as Colonel Ellis and Mr. Chicheley were content to do, and did. To the which, the Archbishop (as Colonel Ellis and Sir Will. Legg can witness) was ever willing to give way.

6. "That howsoever, the Archbishop may have all his goods and chattels, all his cannon, arms, ammunition, powder, provision in beef, beer, wine, cheese, butter, oatmeal and corn presently restored to him. . And what is wasted and made away may be answer'd to him by Sir John: as also that all the inhabitants of this and the neighbour countries may have their goods presently out of the castle, before they be pilfered and imbezeled.

7. "Or otherwise, that his Majesty and Prince Rupert his lieutenant, will graciously permit and suffer, with their gracious favour; the said Archbishop and inhabitants of the country, to repair with their complaints to the assembly at *Oxford*, and the committee there, against these, and many other outrages and concussions of the said Sir Jo. Owen, under colour of being Governour and Sheriff of this town, not warranted by any of his commissions."

<sup>5</sup> Hacket's Memorial, 219.

This remonstrance proved of no effect, and the only answer given to captain Martin, after a delay of several weeks, was, That it should be considered at more leisure.

Fifteen months expired after this, and the archbishop had no redress, when colonel Mitton with a parliamentary army came from Chester to Conwy. As his forces were too strong to be opposed by those in the king's interest, it was determined by the archbishop and those whose property was in the castle, to come to terms with him; stating how Sir John Owen had surprised the castle, and detained their effects, they offered to join him in obtaining possession of the place, on condition that each person should have what belonged to him, if he could prove his title by the archbishop's inventory, and what remained unclaimed was to be taken by himself. This being agreed to, Mitton's army, assisted by the archbishop in person, who was wounded in the neck, his kinsmen and other Welshmen, forced open the gates and took the town by storm on the fifteenth of August, 1646. All the Irish found here were seized by Mitton's command, and being tied back to back, were thrown into the river. The castle surren-

dered on the tenth of November, and Mitton faithfully restored to every individual whatever had been entrusted to the archbishop. For these services, the parliament granted the latter a general pardon, and a release from all his sequestrations.<sup>5</sup>

The calumniators of the archbishop have taken advantage of these transactions to blacken his character, but they are far from proving that he had the least intention of assisting the parliament against the king. As he had been so unjustly dealt with by prince Rupert, and the king's affairs were now desperate, he had no alternative but to make the best terms he could, in order to secure the property entrusted to his care; and all the actions of his life prove his devotedness to the royal cause. Upon hearing of the king's death, he was so much grieved, that it is recorded of him, that after this time he constantly rose out of bed at midnight, and kneeling on his bare knees, prayed earnestly for a quarter of an hour before he returned to rest. His spirit, which had hitherto been untouched by his frequent misfortunes, was now entirely broken; and his constitution rapidly

<sup>5</sup> Pennant's Tour in Wales, III. 133.

decayed: he expired at Gloddaeth on the anniversary of his birth-day, the twenty-fifth of March, 1650, in the sixty-eighth year of his age. His body was conveyed to Penrhyn, and buried in the church of Llandegai. His character is thus summed up by his biographer. "So singular was the strength of his constitution, so strict his education, so unwearied his industry, and so vast his capacity, that it is a hard matter to determine to which of all these he was most indebted, for all his more than ordinary qualifications. His learning was copious, his judgement stay'd, his apprehension clear and searching, his expression lively and effectual, his elocution flowing and majestic. He was subject to sudden passions, but never so as to lose himself, for at such times he would reason with all exactness of a calm temper."<sup>6</sup>

There is little to be recorded in the history of Conwy besides the dismantling of the castle by the earl of Conway. A grant of the castle was

<sup>6</sup> Life by Phillips, 307. Hacket's Memorial to Archbishop Williams, fol. 1693. furnishes the most authentic account of him; and from this Phillips compiled his Life. 8vo. Cambridge. 1700. and Stephens his abridged Memoirs, 8vo. London, 1715. A Life of the Archbishop was also written by Da. Lloyd.

made by Charles I. in March, 1628, to lord Conway, by the title of viscount Kilultagh. Previously however to this, an indenture had been made on the tenth of January, 14. James I. between his majesty of the one part, and Sir F. Bacon, attorney general, Sir John Duncombe, Thomas Murray, James Fullerton, John Walter, and Thomas Trevor of the other part, by which his majesty demised to these persons and their executors, the castle of Conwy, with its rights, members, and appointments, situate, lying, and being within the town of Aberconwy. To hold the same for ninety-nine years.

An indenture of assignment was subsequently made between Walter, Trevor, and Fullerton, who had survived the other three, of the one part, and viscount Kilultagh by his name of lord Conway, of the other part; whereby in consideration of six shillings and eight-pence a year to be paid his majesty, the castle with its rights, members, and appointments was assigned to viscount Kilultagh and his heirs in as ample a manner as it came into the hands of his majesty or any of his progenitors; except all right of patronage of churches and cha-

pels; to hold the same, himself, his heirs and assigns for ever.<sup>7</sup>

In 1665, the earl of Conway, under pretence of its being done for his majesty's service, stript the castle of all the timber, iron, and lead, and shipped it off to Ireland; his vandal orders were so rigorously carried into effect by his servants, that the smallest particle of iron cannot be found remaining in any part of the castle. Thomas Bulkeley Esq. Colonel Wynn, and several of the leading men of the country attempted to oppose the design, but without success; the following letter was written in answer to their remonstrances.

“ Hono<sup>ble</sup> friends,

“ I HAVE had the honour to receive yo<sup>r</sup> letter of the 20<sup>th</sup> Sept. in which you are pleas'd to enquire of me, whether my servant Milward doth act by my order for the taking down of the lead, timber, and iron of Conway castle; in answer to which question, I do by this acknowledg it to be my act and deed; and that the said Milward is employed by me to dispose of the timber and iron, according

<sup>7</sup> Editor's unpublished MS.

<sup>8</sup> Pennant's Tour in Wales, App. xxi.

to such directions as I gaue him; and to transporte the lead into Ireland, where I hope it will be more serviceable to his ma<sup>ty</sup> then it was in this country. And having this opportunity of addressing myselfe to you, I humbly beseech you to take off the restraint which you haue put vpon his proceedings, and to affoord him yo<sup>r</sup> favour in it; for I am already prejudiced by the losse of shipping, and an opportune season for transportation of the lead: yet I shall esteeme this as a particular obligation vpon mee, and be ready to expresse it by all the service in my power to every one of you, that you are pleased to grant this att my request; which otherwise may put me to some trouble and delay. And I doubt not of meeting occasions to testifie my being,

Hono<sup>ble</sup> Sirs,

Yo<sup>r</sup> affectionate and obedient Serv<sup>t</sup>

CONWAY AND KILULTA.

*Ragley in Warwickshire,*

6<sup>th</sup> October, 1665.

For the hono<sup>ble</sup> Thomas Bulkley, Esq;  
Colonell Wynn, Hugh Wynn, Esq;  
Thomas Vaughan, Esq; his mat<sup>ties</sup>  
Deputy Livetennants in North Wales.

The consequence of this barbarous proceeding was, that this noble structure was reduced to the bare ruin, such as it is now to be seen. It is at present held from the crown by Sir David Erskine, Bart. the representative, by right of his wife, of the Plasisav family, at an annual rent of six shillings and eight-pence; and a dish of fish to the marquis of Hertford, whenever he passes through the town.<sup>8</sup>

Conwy gives the title of baron to the marquis of Hertford. 3. Charles I. Edward lord Conway of Ragley was created viscount Conway of Conway castle, the same who reduced it to its present condition; and in 1679, 31. Charles II. his grandson Edward, who had succeeded his father Edward, was created earl of Conway, and dying without issue, his cousin and adopted heir Francis Seymour Conway, second son of Sir Edward Seymour, Baronet, by his second wife, was created lord Conway, baron Conway of Ragley, 1702—3, 2. Anne; and he died 1731—2. His eldest son Francis was created earl of Hertford in 1750.

<sup>8</sup> Grose's Antiquities, VII. 18.



## ABBEY OF ABERCONWY.

LLYWELYN AB IORWERTH, prince of North Wales, founded here a Cistercian abbey, and by his charter he endowed it with a very great extent of territory in Arvon, Denbighshire, and Anglesey; he also assigned the limits of the land where it stood, and those in Creiddyn, which seem to agree with the modern liberties of the corporation; he also gave it Friwlwyd,<sup>o</sup> Kwin, Redenocuelen, Nankall, Kellmeoc, Bodgedwyd, Voelas Keirnauc, and Llanvair-Ryt-Castell, Llynkemer, Llethwyedkrynllwyn; the boundaries of which are severally named, and were granted for ever; besides these, he gave them great privileges and immunities. They had a perpetual exemption from keeping men, horses, dogs, or hawks for the prince's service, and from giving entertainment to himself, or any other lay person on pretence of custom; they had liberty to choose their own abbots without the interference of himself, or any layman; all wrecks upon their lands belonged to them, and if any of their vessels were wrecked on the prince's lands, they recovered the same; they were likewise to be

<sup>o</sup> In Evionydd, Arvon.

free from all tolls, themselves and servants, and whatever was bought or sold ; and a free passage for themselves and their effects provided them over the ferries of Menai, Conwy, Abermaw, and Dyvi ; they were not tried for any offence whatever in his courts, but according to their own rules : they were not to be molested for receiving any person into their monastery ; and if any monk borrowed money without the consent of the abbot, the monastery was not answerable for it. These, with several other valuable privileges were secured to them by the charter, dated from Aberconwy, and witnessed by Yorwerth Gam, Gwyn ab Ednewein-ydon, his chaplain ; and Madoc ab Cadur, in 1198. The original is inserted in the Appendix.

Enjoying such great advantages, we may infer that it must have contained men eminent for their learning ; its library was famous, and it was also one of the depositories of the public acts. All things of importance which happened in Wales, were regularly recorded in the abbeys of Aberconwy, and Ystradflur in South Wales ; and every third year the chief occurrences, as registered in the two abbeys, were generally compared together

by the beirdd, or bards belonging to the two houses, when they went their ordinary visitations, or clera. This continued until the year 1270, a little before the death of the last sovereign prince of Wales, Llywelyn ab Gruffydd, who was slain at Buallt.<sup>1</sup>

The abbey was honoured by being the burial place of several illustrious persons: of its founder, Llywelyn the Great, whose coffin was removed after the dissolution, and is preserved in the church of Llanrwst; it is made of stone, and the sides are curiously carved into quatre foils. This prince died in 1240. Previously to him, in 1200, Gruffydd ab Cynan ab Owen Gwynedd was buried here in a monk's cowl, a mode of burying lately introduced from England, and very much practised by the higher ranks, as highly conducive to future bliss;<sup>2</sup> it may be observed, that about this period, several superstitious practices of the church of Rome gained ground in Wales, and soon began to corrupt the purity of the ancient British church. There were also buried here, Llywelyn son of Mael-

<sup>1</sup> Preface to Powell's Wales.

<sup>2</sup> Powell's Wales.

gwn, who died in 1230;<sup>3</sup> Davydd, son of Llywelyn the Great, who died at his palace of Aber in 1246;<sup>3</sup> Howel the son of Gruffydd ab Cynan ab Owen Gwynedd;<sup>4</sup> and likewise Gruffydd,<sup>3</sup> an illegitimate son of prince Llywelyn, who was kept a prisoner in the tower of London by Henry III. and in endeavouring to escape, he fell from a great height and was killed; his body was recovered from the king of England by the earnest solicitations of the abbots of Aberconwy and Ystradflur, who conveyed it here, and buried it with great pomp and honour: this was in 1248.

In 1243, the abbots of Aberconwy and Cymer, in a dispute between prince Davydd and king Henry, had commission from the Pope to absolve their prince from his allegiance to the king of England.

Edward I. after the conquest of Wales, not wishing to have the abbey in his new English town of Aberconwy, removed it, in 1289, to Maenan, about ten miles higher up the river; he acted very honourably and kindly to the monks, leaving them

<sup>3</sup> Powell's Wales

<sup>4</sup> Wynn's Gwydir History, 26.

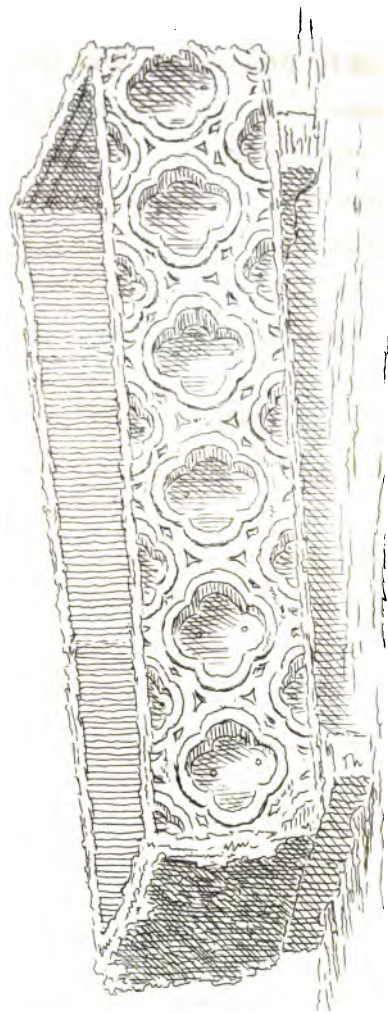
all their lands and privileges, and granting them the township of Maenan with several other parcels of land in lieu of what they had at Conwy; they enjoyed in addition several new immunities, and they were exempted from all taxes, tolls, and duties whatsoever, and the presentation of their conventual church, which he now made parochial,<sup>5</sup> was granted them on condition that they appointed two Englishmen as chaplains, and the third a Welshman, for the benefit of those who were unacquainted with English. One of the Englishmen was to be perpetual vicar, to be named by the convent on every vacancy, and to be presented by the diocesan. These privileges were secured by his first and second charters, dated from Caernarvon; and Pope Nicholas also by his bull authorised the translation.<sup>6</sup> At the dissolution, the revenues of this abbey were, according to Dugdale, £162. 15s.; and according to Speed, £179. 10s. 10d. The last abbot was Richard Kyffin, who had a pension of twenty pounds a year.<sup>7</sup> In the fifth year of Elizabeth, the abbey was granted to Elizeus Wynne in the possession of whose de-

<sup>5</sup> Ayloffe's *Rotuli Walliæ*, 91.

<sup>6</sup> See the three in the Appendix.

<sup>7</sup> Pennant's *Tour in Wales*.





*Coffin of Prince Llewelyn*

scendant, Lord Newborough, it still continues ; but there are now no remains of the abbey buildings. The monks had conveyed the coffin of their founder from the town of Aberconwy, when they were first removed to Maenan, and at the dissolution of the latter, it was placed in Llanrwst church, where it still continues. The new foundation at Maenan preserved to the last the original name, and the abbey was always called Conwy abbey.<sup>8</sup> Of the original abbey in Aberconwy there are now no remains. A long vaulted room of good masonry, and worked with clay, but plastered with lime, and a Saxon door were seen by Mr. Pennant ; they were taken down about forty years ago. In the churchyard, on the north side, there is an ancient tombstone, ornamented with a cross fleuris, but it has no inscription. A similar one was found with a plain cross cut in, when making some improvements in the Castle inn yard in 1832, which is a part of the site of the abbey, and under it a skull, with no other bones whatever. The foundation walls of different parts of the abbey were also exposed at the same time.

<sup>8</sup> See Tudyr Aled's Poems, and Leland.



## DESCRIPTION OF THE CASTLE AND TOWN.

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THE beauty and magnificence of Conwy castle is probably unrivalled, and it makes a noble picture from every point of view, backed as it is by varied and the most picturesque scenery. It might justly be deemed impregnable, by reason of its natural and artificial strength, during the mode of warfare prevalent at the time of its erection. It was built by Edward I. in 1284, and Henry de Elerton, the same who built the castle of Carnarvon, was the architect employed. Its form is oblong, and it is erected on a high rock at one corner of the triangle, which encloses the town. One side is bounded by the river, another by a creek which is full of water at every tide, and into which the river Gyffin flows; the other two sides are within the town walls. On the outside, eight massive and enormous towers, forty-feet in diameter, project; four on each side; and there was a winding staircase to the summit in a smaller tower contained in each, which in the four nearest the river issue out to the height of several feet, and form an exceedingly beautiful addition. The summit of these commands an extensive view of the adjacent

country. The walls and towers are embattled and vary from twelve to fifteen feet in thickness. The principal entrance was from the town at the west-end by a drawbridge over a very deep moat; this leads by the ascent of a few steps to a spacious terrace, protected by five small towers, and intervening walls; thence through a gateway, defended by a portcullis, to the larger court. This contains on the south side the noble hall, which is one hundred and thirty feet long, thirty-two wide, and of a proportionate height, about thirty feet; out of this was partitioned off, at the east end, a chapel with a large window. The roof was supported by eight fine gothic arches, four of which still remain; one fell about thirty years ago; it was warmed by a great fire-place at one end, and two others, one on each side; there are six windows to the country, and three larger ones to the court; underneath were the spacious vaults which contained the ammunition for the use of the garrison; and also the cellars for provision. At the east end of this court is the reservoir, fifteen feet in diameter, and twenty deep; the water which supplied it is traditionally reported to have been conveyed in pipes from a well above Ty gwyn. I have heard it said that portions of pipes have been

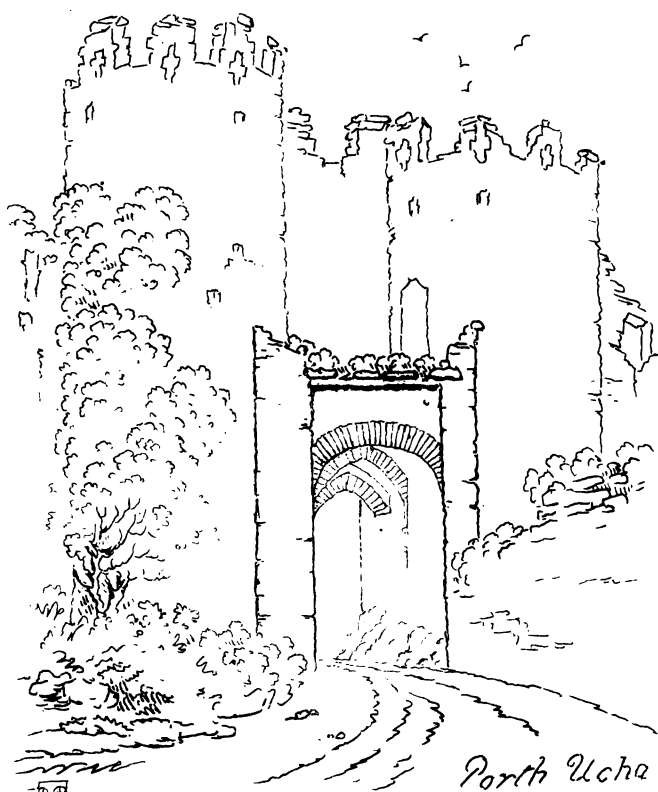
met with, when ploughing fields in that neighbourhood, and tradition also records that the enemy, by discovering these pipes, at one time forced the garrison to surrender; this reservoir has two apertures on the south side by which the water was admitted, and opposite, there is now to be seen a stone pipe which conveyed the water into the moat, when it rose too high. The entrance into the inner court is by a passage through a strong wall, ten feet and a half in thickness, which on the out-side has a sentinel's lodge, who could see through a loop-hole every one coming from the chief entrance. On the right in this court is one of the state rooms, twenty nine feet by twenty two; a beautiful arch which supported the roof remains perfect, a second has long ago been destroyed; the windows look into the court. Between this room and *tior-y-brenin*, or the king's tower, was the king's chamber, which communicated with that of the queen on the opposite side; the north tower is called *tior-y-orquines*, the queen's tower; and the room on the first story contains a recess taken out of the wall, which is the only place with any appearance of ornament in the castle; it is formed by seven pointed and groined arches uniting with each other at the roof, and under them

are more arches, with a basement all round. This recess, which with the adjoining room was the queen's private chapel, contained the altar table, and on both sides are small apertures communicating with two apartments, made also in the wall, which were the confessionals. That such was the use of this place is corroborated by the circumstance, that this is the only room in any of the towers above the ground floor, which does not contain a fire-place. The diameter of the inside of the towers is about eighteen feet; these consist generally of two stories, with the ground floor, which was chiefly used for keeping stores. The king's tower hath a strong room below, which was accessible only by a trap door; but the keep, or *tur y carcharorion* is the second on the south side, adjoining the hall, from which there is a passage through it to the top of the walls. On the east side there is another terrace, protected by three towers and walls, where there was a second entrance to the castle; this was from the river, by ascending a steep rock, where once had been a narrow flight of winding stairs; protected by a wall, with a small covered hanging tower, which went a considerable way into the river, and had another round tower at its extremity to prevent

the approach of an enemy at ebb tide ; the portion in the river had been for a long period destroyed, but the narrow wall with the hanging tower, as far as the terrace, was taken down, when making the approach to the bridge. The next tower to the king's, *twr darn*, or the broken tower, presents a very picturesque ruin ; the avarice of some of the inhabitants led them to excavate the rock at its base, which occasioned a vast fragment of the tower to fall ; the upper half remains perfect, suspended at a great height, and projecting nearly thirty feet over the walls below.\*

The walls which surround the town were built the same time as the castle, and are nearly triangular ; a form evidently prescribed by the situation ; the walls which still remain entire are very lofty and embattled : in the circuit of about a mile and a quarter there are twenty-one strong towers,

\* It is to be regretted that there are persons still in Conwy, equally avaricious and culpable, who, to avoid the trifling expense of bringing stones from an excellent quarry, scarcely two hundred yards from the town, have lately dug them up under the very foundations of the castle, and, by blasting the rock, have caused great injury to the interior. We are greatly in want of murengers to take care of the walls ; in many places, especially near Porth y velin, they are in a very damaged state at their base. I could wish to draw the attention of the neighbouring landowners to the circumstance, as a little expense now would secure them for ages.



*Porth Ucha*

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ASTOR, LENOX AND  
TILDEN FOUNDATIONS.

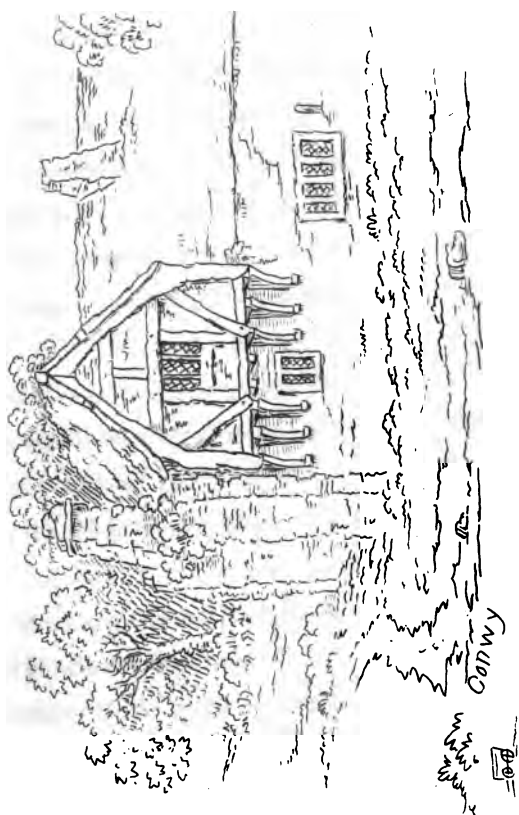
rising considerably above the walls, besides three entrances to the town, with two stronger towers to each. The base of the triangle runs along the river, and in it are seven towers with a gateway called *Porth isav*, or the lower gate; between this and the castle, there is also a portal in the wall, called *Porth bach*, but without towers; from the northern extremity of the base a curtain with battlements on each side, runs nearly seventy yards into the river, which had at its extremity a large tower, long since destroyed, but the ruins are visible. This corresponded with a similar tower under the castle: the gateway through the curtain is called *Porth yr aden*. A second entrance to the town was from the country side, nearly opposite to *Porth isav*; it is called *Porth uchav*, or the upper gate, and it was furnished with a drawbridge; the third is on the south side, and led to the *velin heli*, or salt-watermill; it is called *Porth y velin*, or the gate of the mill. Except on the river side the whole town was surrounded by a deep and wide moat. One of the towers on the south has a wall built on the town side, and contained some spacious apartments, it is called *Twr Llywelyn*; the town wall immediately adjoining has also three windows; there probably

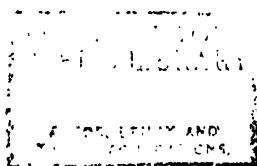


was a house here, which being principally made of wood has left no remains. The name of the neighbouring street is most likely a corruption of Bowyer-street; and Caernarvon had also its *ystryd y priciau saethau*.

There are no buildings within the town whose origin can be dated as high as the thirteenth century: the two oldest are built of frame-work, with the interstices of lath and plaster, which was the prevalent mode some centuries ago; one is situated in the high-street, and the other in the upper part of the town; this is called Plas uchav. A large building of the same kind was taken down in 1823, when erecting the addition to the Castle inn. Two others, also, in different parts of the town have been removed within the last thirty years.

The oldest stone house is that known by the name of the college, which has a singular window fronting the castle-street, and the sculptured ornaments beneath are unusual: among them an eagle pouncing upon a child, and coats of arms, relating to the great family of Stanley and others. This was built in the reign of Elizabeth; but there are no documents respecting its history. Mr.





Pennant's supposition that Edward I. established a place of instruction here, for youth, when he took the abbey into his hands, will only hold good by supposing that the present building was built on the site of a more ancient one, originally assigned for that purpose. In the high-street is a large pile of building, called *Plas mawr*, or the great mansion, it consists of two distinct parts ; the one in the street contains two stories, in the lowest of which is the court chamber ; above the entrance the arms of England are carved, and over the doorway, within the portico, are two Greek words *ANEXOY ANEXOY*, with their interpretation in Latin, *SUSTINE, ABSTINE*, (bear, forbear,) and on the house the letters *I. H. S. X. P. S.*, and the date, 1585. The second part faces at right angles to the high-street, and consists of two wings, in one of which is the fine old hall, with benches along the walls, and wainscot at one end ; beneath are very extensive cellars : the ascent to the rooms above is by a winding staircase, which is continued in a tower for several feet above the house, and commands a very beautiful view of the country. The walls and ceilings throughout are ornamented in stucco, with swans, owls, cranes, ostriches, bears, mermaids, ragged staves, and a

variety of fantastic figures. The ragged staves are the badges of Robert Dudley, the earl of Leicester. This house was built by Robert Wynne, son of John Wynne ab Meredydh, of Gwydir, and uncle to Sir John Wynne, Bart. the historian. He was sheriff for the county of Caernarvon in 1591, and he died in 1598; he left a son Thomas, whose son Robert was deputy-mayor of Conwy, and he lies buried in the chancel under an arched monument: he died in November, 1664. The marriage of his daughter Elen with Robert Wynne, of Bodysgallen, Esq. conveyed Plas mawr to that family.

Exactly opposite to the college window, two new houses are built in a garden, which has always gone by the name of Plas porter, and there were in it within a few years, remains of an old house which bore the same name; it probably was the residence of the chief porter of the castle. Another old house, opposite to which the new chapel of the Wesleyan methodists is built, is to be noticed as being the place of the birth of Archbishop Williams; when he retired to Conwy in his declining years, he probably enlarged it, as in one of the rooms above the fire-place are his initials, I. Y. with the cross keys, and the date 1642.

The old hall was erected in the reign of king James I. and on a beam over the north window, removed when the road was widened, was the inscription **GOD SAVE THE KING JAMES, 1613.** and over the fire place at present is another, **N.HOOKES ALDER 1613.** Beneath the hall was the heinous or town prison. Aberconwy is now greatly decayed, in regard to the opulence and number of families who formerly lived here, but whose names are now extinct. The exclusive advantages enjoyed by Englishmen from the time of the first Edward for several centuries, brought here a great number of adventurers, and the names of almost all the inhabitants were extraneous; such were Hookes, Stodart, Acton, Peicke, Brickdall, Maderer, Browne, Aldersley, Acley, Totte, Lee, Byrches, Scherman, Robinson, Salysbre, Barker, Mellers, Holland, and many others. The last who bore any of these names was Owen Holland of Plas isav, Esq. who died in 1795. Hugh Peak, of Conwy, Esq. was sheriff for Caernarvonshire in 1546, and 1552. Richard Peak, of Conwy, Esq. was sheriff in 1576. William Hookes, of Conwy, Esq. in 1640. and Edward Holland, Esq. in 1701. The consequence of their privileges was, that the town enjoyed

great prosperity and opulence; and even within the two last centuries Sir John Wynne of Gwydir mentions, that they were called the lawyers of Carnarvon, the merchants of Beaumaris, and the gentlemen of Conwy. When we recollect that this prosperity was obtained by the oppression of our own countrymen, it is not likely that we should indulge in much regret at its decay, which became advantageous to the country around, and indeed was owing to the natives obtaining their just rights and liberties. There was also a considerable trade carried on in Conwy; and some tradesmen struck their own tokens; I have one of them, a penny, which is about the size of a modern sixpence, but much thinner, having on one side a coat of arms, HENRY HUGHES, 1663. *Rev. I. N. ABERCONWAY, I<sup>D</sup>.* A difficult entrance to the harbour and the greater eligibility of other places have considerably reduced the export trade. Until the opening of the new line through Capel Curig, the road from Shrewsbury to Holyhead passed through Conwy, and was a source of advantage to the town; the races were annually held on the marsh, and a King's plate was granted to be run for, which continued until 1794. The great sessions for the county, and

formerly for Merionethshire also, were held here alternately with Caernarvon ; but, as Aberconwy is at the extremity of the county, the more central situation of Caernarvon has now obtained the privilege exclusively. The town however will again obtain importance ; since the opening the bridge in 1826, there is an evident improvement in the market, and occasionally great quantities of corn are sold. The opening of the slate quarries in the Caernarvonshire hills is also of great advantage, and this branch of commerce is gradually increasing ; a few great capitalists are all that are wanting to ensure important benefits to the town. The slates are brought to Trefriw in carts, and thence to Aberconwy in sailing boats, where they are put into large vessels, and exported to different parts of the kingdom. The harbour is now made extremely commodious by a very fine quay of excellent masonry and great extent, which was undertaken by the corporation, and completed, at an expense to them of thirteen hundred pounds, in 1833. The entrance to the harbour is directed by three black buoys and a red one, and a perch. There is water over all the banks for small sloops at four hours flood ; but vessels that draw ten feet water, must keep the channel.

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Several excellent houses have lately been built in the town, and the general appearance within is considerably changed, and materially improved, within the last few years. Before 1830, four fairs were annually held, on April 6, September 4, October 10, and November 8. As trade is now greatly increasing, it hath been thought requisite to have them more frequently; they are accordingly held seven times in the year; on March 26, April 30, June 20, August 19, September 16, October 20, and November 5. The weekly market is held on Friday, when no one ought to sell before the bell is rung by one of the serjeants at mace. The fairs are opened by the members of the corporation, who proceed with their wands to the top of the street, and read the proclamation, which agrees with the subjoined; but for the perusal of the curious reader, I have selected this from a manuscript written in 1590.

“ The p'lamacon of the faire of conwey.

“ THE maior, the Ald<sup>r</sup>man and the Bailiffs in the Kings name doe charge & comond eu'ie man that is comen here this day to the ffaire of Conwey that they kepe the kings peace, and that no man beare any man' weapons or harnesse upon him

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under paine of C<sup>h</sup> to be forfeited to the kings grace, and there bodies to p'sonne ther to remaine till the Kings pleasure be therein further knowen, But only Burgess' soldaries and other suche as are appointed to waite upon the kings Officers here for that intent to order & maintaine the good rule of the kings towne of Conwey. And that eu'ie p'sone and p'sones be at free libertie both to come and goe to buy and sell for this twoe dayes without any p'turbacion or greu<sup>n</sup>ce for any man' cause or occacon that maye be objected against them or any of them for this tyme (except it be for the kings causes) and eu'ie man & woman are well-come to buy & sell freeilie theis ij dayes without any custome or stallage axinge of them.

God save the kinge."

The fair in September is called the honey fair, when large quantities of very excellent honey are sold; the superiority of its flavour is probably owing to its being extracted from the heath blossoms, and other wild flowers, on the neighbouring mountains. Its average price for the last years has been two shillings a quart, or about eightpence a pound. That Conwy has been famed for its honey for several centuries will be seen by an

item among the following extracts, made from a roll of the expences of Edward I. at Rhuddlan castle, in the tenth and eleventh years of his reign (1281 and 1282.) These are classed under the head of *necessaries*.

“ For six carts, each with three horses, hired to carry the hay from the meadows to the castle of Rothelan, for one day, 6s. 10d.

For the carriage of turf, with which the house was covered in which the hay was placed. 1s. 5d.

For an iron fork bought to turn the hay, 3d.

For making a ditch about the house where the said hay was put, 1s. 8d.

For putting and piling up one rick of hay in the house, 1s. 8d.

Wages of two turf cutters, seven days, at 5d. per day, 5s. 10d.

For the carriage of turves to cover the king's kitchen, 7s. 6d.

For twenty-two empty easks, bought to make paling for the queen's court yard, 18s. 4d.

To Wildbor, the fisherman, receiving 10d. per day, and his six companions, the queen's fishermen, at 3d. per day each, fishing in the sea forty-two days, £4. 18s.

Repairing a cart of the king's, conveying a pipe of honey from Aberconway to Rothelan, 1s. 4d.

To six men carrying shingles to cover the hall of the castle, at 2½d. each per day, seven days, 8s. 9d."

Before the passing of the Reform Bill, Conwy was a contributory borough in returning a member to parliament with Caernarvon, Pwllheli, Nevin, and Cricciaeth. This privilege it still retains, but the franchise is extended to all the inhabitants who are qualified according to the provision of that act. The population in 1801, was 889; in 1811, 1053; in 1821, 1105; and in 1831, 1245.

Besides the archbishop of York, this town was the birth-place of another prelate, Nicholas Robinson, D. D. He was entered at Queen's College, Cambridge, where he became a fellow, and was appointed chaplain to Dr. Parker, archbishop of Canterbury. He was made dean of Bangor in 1556, and afterwards archdeacon of Meirion, with the sinecure rectory of Northop, in 1562. He was raised to the bishoprick of Bangor in 1566. His death took place in February 1583-4, and he was buried in the cathedral. He was a man of very

great learning ; and besides his knowledge of theology and the classics, he was well skilled in his own language : he translated into Latin from the Welsh, “ Hanes Gruffydd ab Cynan ;” the Life of Gruffydd ab Cynan ; which was preserved in the library of Gwydir.

When Edward I. incorporated the town of Aberconwy, he ordered in his charter that the constable of the castle for the time being should be the mayor of the town. But ever since the year 1570, and even for some time previously, the chief magistrate of the borough was called the alderman, and was elected by his fellow burgesses annually ; it does not appear that the crown took care to appoint a constable of the castle, for since the above year 1570, the office has only been filled five times. James I. granted by patent to Edward Herbert and Richard Herbert, and the survivor of them, the office of forester of Snowdon, and constable of the castle of Aberconwy. In 1649, an order was made by the committee of state to appoint colonel Carter constable or keeper of Conwy castle. In 1662, a grant was made of the office of constable, or keeper of the castle, to Edward lord Herbert. None of these seem to have

interfered with the government of the town in the office of mayor. The legality however of the election of an alderman has been several times disputed. The following document relates to a curious case on that point, in the reign of Elizabeth, where Sir Richard Bulkeley, Knt. and Thomas Mostyn, Esq. were elected burgesses, contrary to the common practise of the corporation at that period.

“ This is a lawdable Custome in the Town of Conway (as in other Towns of liberties in Wales) that in the election of burgesses upon michelmas daye, that every burges hath a negative voice, so that if any one burges desire any one that is to be chosen burges of his voice, he cannot be chosen.

Now on michelmas daye last, thus it fell out in that Towne of Conway at the election of burgesses. After the election of officers as the manner is, it was openly propounded in their counsel-house where all the burgesses were assembled; that Syr Rich<sup>d</sup>. Bulkeley Knight & Thomas Mosten Esq<sup>r</sup>. desired to be burgesses of that Towne, & therefore we were to speak their minds. There stode up hereupon three of the better sort of burges & spake one after an other, that they would not consent

thereunto w<sup>ch</sup> not withstanding some that favoured Syr Rich<sup>d</sup> & Mr. Mosten wold neades know how many was againste them and how many with them. Then a great number spake at onest that they would not chose them nor any other at y<sup>t</sup> time. Wherewith all the saide favorers beyng discontent wold neades speake of the more part upon whose side they were (w<sup>ch</sup> thing was never used in any such election) and so made much trouble in the house. To pacifie w<sup>ch</sup> the alderman & bailiffs did breake up that assemblie seyng three of the better sort were againste y<sup>t</sup> election; notwithstanding to show unto those favorers that they had not the more part, they called out of the counsel-house all such as did not assent to the chosing of Syr Rich<sup>d</sup> & Mr. Mosten w<sup>ch</sup> were there numbred to be 35, & thought y<sup>t</sup> the rest wold have followed (by reason that the alderman & bayliffs had dissolued that assemblie & were come out) but they remayned there, & beyng 22 made an election of Syr Rich<sup>d</sup> & Mr. Mosten to be burgeses. Now the question is whither this was a lawfull election, seyng three had in speciall wordes spoken against it: the ordinary officers had discharged that assemblie: yea and y<sup>t</sup> the more part showed themselves to be against the same.

To justifie this headles & headdy election, it is sayed that one Rich<sup>d</sup>. Gwyn and named deputie constable, was there officer, and so proceeded to y<sup>t</sup> election by reason that the constable is in y<sup>e</sup> charter named Maior of y<sup>t</sup> Town—But it may be answered, y<sup>t</sup> the constable must be sworn by the burgeses before he be Maior, w<sup>ch</sup> thing was not as yet done, secondly y<sup>t</sup> Syr Wm. Harbert Knight, whose factour Mr. Rich<sup>d</sup>. Gwyn is, is not constable, but that he hath bought an other mans fee or patent. Thirdly y<sup>t</sup> Mr. Gwyn hath no deputation to be deputie Maior and last of all, that by custome of this Town the alderman and bayliffs only intermeddle with all such elections, and nether the constable nor his deputie.

An other lawdable custome hath continued in the Towne of Conway tyme out of minde, that when any assemblie is to be made for the swearing of Burgeses, the Alderman and Bayliffs doe send the sergeant to warne all the Burgeses of the place and tyme.

Now contrary to this lawdable custome the ij daye of Octob: Rich<sup>d</sup>. Gwyn, gent: assembling to himself in secret wise, without the knoleage of the Alderman and Bayliffs, 9 or 10 of the Burgeses did sweare Syr Rich<sup>d</sup>. Bulkeley knight, and



**Tho: Mosten Esq.** (chosen as before is said) burgeses of the saied Towne.

**The Question** is whither this admission be lawful. **Memorand :** That all the Burgeses of y<sup>t</sup> Towne are sworne to the observation of all the lawdable customes of the saied Town at theyre admission."

In December, 1769, **John Parry, Esq.** of Lincoln's-inn, having been appointed constable of the castle, demanded to be sworn in to the office of mayor, according to the charter, and upon the refusal of the corporation to comply, until they had procured satisfactory directions how to proceed, pleading the long disuse of the office, he obtained a mandamus from the court of King's-bench; but the proceedings were terminated by his death, which took place soon after. In 1810, **Griffith ab Howel Vaughan, Esq.** of Rug, was appointed to the constablenesship of the castle, by writ of privy seal, and with a salary of £23. An alderman continued to be chosen annually, until the contested election of members of parliament in 1830, when the office was decided to be illegal, and the mayoralty revived; it is consequently now held by the constable of the castle.

It will be seen, from the subjoined two documents, that at one time there was an alderman as well as mayor; and as they furnish some curious information of the customs of the corporate body, they are here inserted.

“ In festo S’ci mathei Ap’li Anno Decimo octavo, Henrici octavi.

“ It is ordered by the Maiore, the Alderman, the Bailiffs, And by all the Comburchesses of Conwey, that whereas James fiona the same day was sworne burgesse of Conwey wh’ gave to be made freeman xij<sup>th</sup> iij<sup>th</sup> unto the hands of Hugh hookes Alderman: That the said James nor non other should from hencefourth receve any malte or Corne that shall come from Lancashire and wiroll or any other place, nor keepe the same within his house: but that it be at lib’tie for every man or woman to buy as the market goeth; and that the said James and his wyfe shall not hinder the towne in bringe of malte to have advantaige thereby or reere the m’kett thereof uppon paine of xv<sup>s</sup> as often tymes so doinge or offending to be leuied by the Baylyfes. It’m, whereas John Robins was admitted burges there the same daye: wh’ gave to Comyn box to be free man v<sup>s</sup> unto the hands of the saide

**Alderman.** ALSO, it is ordered that the first sacke of wheate y<sup>t</sup> cometh to the mille be first grounden, and so furth evry sacke in order then next cominge: and the miller to be sworne uppon the same, and he that breaketh this order to forfett xij<sup>d</sup> evry tyme so doinge. ALSO it is ordered, that noe p<sup>'</sup>son hencefourth send his wheate or hard corne to grind to any other millne, but only to the millens of Conwey uppon paine of iij<sup>s</sup>. iiij<sup>d</sup> to be forfetted as often tymes so offendinge to be leuied by the Bailiffs to there owne use. Except that such p<sup>'</sup>son can not have grinding ther by reason of Drought, and for lacke of watter in the Somer season by the space of foure or five dayes. ALSO it is ordered, that neither bread nor alle to the use of our lady St. Mary be hencfurth keapte. but only to be laide downe. and evry Burgesses to give his peny evry sonday, and ev<sup>'</sup>y fforin ob. evry sonday: then the same p<sup>'</sup>son to be cited by M<sup>r</sup> vicke to appeere affore M<sup>r</sup> Hugh holland and there to be corrected by the church Lawe."

"IN FESTO Sci Mich'ilis arch'i anno decimo octavo. Henrici Octavi.

MEMORANDU' that the newe freeth leinge neare Coytmor is sette ffearme by the whole Comburges

unto Thomas Brickdall weu' for the Terme of xx<sup>ti</sup> yeres next ensuinge the Date hereof yeldinge therefore yerely to the Comein Cofer xx<sup>ti</sup> at the feast of thapp'les Philipp and Jacob, and S<sup>t</sup> Michaell tharchangell by equeall porcions.

THE NAMES of the Burgesses then made.

Pirs Boydell, vj<sup>ti</sup> viij<sup>d</sup> thereof to be paid at Christmas ij<sup>ti</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup> and at Ester then next folowinge ij<sup>ti</sup> iiij<sup>d</sup>.

Harry Acton	} as much
Jankin Hookes	

Mr. Edward Peicke	}
Mr. humferey Brickdall	

Mr. Nicholas Stodart

Robert Stodart

William maderer . . . iiij<sup>d</sup>."

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" APUD CONWEY tricesimo die Octobris Anno regni Elizab. Decimo Septimo.

IT IS ORDERED by the maiore, Alderman & the Bailiffes of this Towne of Conwey by full assent of the Comoltie and the Comburgesses of this saide townne that what soeu' p'son or person, what degree soeu' he be, being either burgess or a townne dweller or dwellinge within the lib'ties of this

towne, do and be readie at all tyme and Tymes hereafter at the ringinge of a Bell that shalbe hanged in the m'kett place not only come furth himseffe but allso carie w'h him a lawfull wepon to maintain the yfficers of this towne of Conwey for the maintenance of the Queenes mat's peace and the good order of this towne & there remaine and abide as long as the saide Officers shall abide and remaine. Eu' p'son or p'sonns so offending shall forfeit and paie x<sup>r</sup> of good and lawfull money of England, the one half to the Bayliffes for the tyme being, and thother half the Bailiffes shall answere the Alderman for his tyme beinge and the saide Alderman to macke a iust and a full accompte of the receite of the said money as is afforesaid to the Combürgeses to and for the use of the said towne of Conwey. And to this order as well the maior, Alderman and Bayliffs as allso all other the Combürgeses have put to there handes the daye and yere above written."

With the exception of the mayor, the other officers continue to be elected annually, as before. They consist of the two bailiffs, a recorder, coroner, water-bailiff, and two serjeants at mace. The liberties of the corporation include the land

in the neighbourhood, which was formerly in the possession of the abbey, and the boundaries at present agree with those named in Llywelyn ab Iorwerth's charter of 1198. The corporation had by the king's grant a large territory, which by leases and other modes has dwindled to a very inconsiderable portion, and most of it totally alienated from the town. The town mountain, the *morva*, *morva bach*, *twthil*, one or two farms, a few gardens, and some plots of ground about the town, are still in their possession, but the leases of some of them have not yet expired. The mill at Gyffin is also their property; they had formerly two mills on this stream, which are now destroyed; the lower mill, called the *velin heli*, or salt water mill, was built immediately under the castle, where the Sarn bridge is at present, and portions of the piles are still visible; this had a malt mill attached to it; the upper mill was considerably higher up, above the modern mill at Gyffin, at a place called *Pen y velin*, below Hendre. Two officers were duly appointed and sworn to keep the accounts of the mills, who were called millwardens, or the stewards of the mills.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> See in the Appendix the stewards' accounts for the year 1531.

*The Oath of the Stewards of the Mills.*

“ You shall well and truely use yo<sup>r</sup> endev<sup>r</sup> to oversee y<sup>e</sup> mill of this towne for one whole year (to be ended at y<sup>e</sup> feaste of St Edw. y<sup>e</sup> Confess<sup>r</sup> next ensueing) and y<sup>t</sup> you shall make true acc<sup>t</sup> of y<sup>e</sup> profits and issue of y<sup>e</sup> same, and if need be, to see that the sayd mills be sufficiently repaired.

So help you God.”

*The Oath of the Miller.*

“ You shall truely and justly keep and serve the salt and upper malt mill of this town of Conway, as a true miller ought to do, in grinding every person as their corne comes according to the old custom, and that you shall not be absent in time of grinding, but that you be there then, or one for you, and that you shall see that every sack and bag be truely tolled, and immediately put into the arcke, and that you grind truly to every person without fraud or guile, and without let or tarring.

So help you God.”

The seal of the corporation has upon it, the castle with the river beneath, and the inscription

E : DE : CONEWEY x S<sup>r</sup> : PROVESTRI.

### THE CHURCH.

Although the church has no pretensions to architectural beauty, it is a very spacious and venerable structure. It is rather irregular in form, consisting of a nave and two side aisles, supported by two rows of pillars, of which the north aisle is a fourth shorter than the south; and this latter only has a transept. The chancel is divided from the body of the church by a very fine old screen of ornamented wood, above which was the organ loft, lately removed. The length of the church to the extremity of the chancel is one hundred and sixteen feet, and the breadth fifty eight feet; the chancel is thirty seven feet long by twenty five. The pulpit and reading desk are very handsome, being made of fine mahogany; as are also several of the pews. The font, placed in the centre of the nave, is of great antiquity; it is made of stone and elaborately carved, with steps encircling the base. As before mentioned, this church was once conventual, and several illustrious individuals were buried here; respecting whom see before, p. 73. The monuments in the church at present are comparatively modern; the most curi-



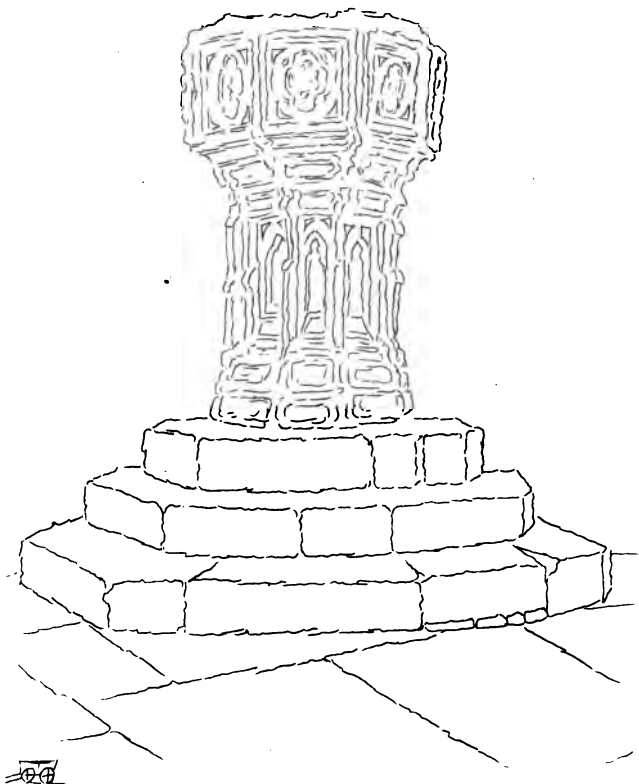
ous is that of Nicholas Hookes who lies buried in the chancel, and is an instance of extraordinary fecundity.

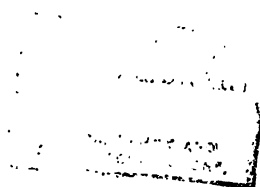
HERE LYETH Y<sup>e</sup> BODY  
OF NICH<sup>s</sup> HOOKES OF  
CONWAY GE<sup>n</sup> WHO  
WAS y<sup>e</sup> 4J<sup>st</sup> CHILD  
OF HIS FATHER W<sup>m</sup>.  
HOOKES ESQ<sup>r</sup> BY ALICE  
HIS WIFE, AND y<sup>e</sup> FATHER  
OF 27 CHILDREN, WHO  
DYED y<sup>e</sup> 20<sup>th</sup> DAY OF MARCH  
1637

N.B. THIS STONE WAS REU  
IVED in y<sup>e</sup> year 1720  
Att y<sup>e</sup> charge OF JOHN  
HOOKES ESQ<sup>r</sup>.  
& SINCE BY THO<sup>s</sup>.  
BRADNEY & W. ARCHER ESQ<sup>s</sup>.

Near this is a figure cut in stone, to preserve the memory of Mary, mother of archbishop Williams, who died in child birth of twins, October 10, 1585. In the south-east corner of the chancel

*Font in Conwy Church*





is an arched monument with the following inscriptions, "ROBERT WYNNE, ESQUIER WAS BURIED THE XXX DALE OF NOVEMBER ANO 1598." "HEAR LIETH THE BODY OF ROBERT WYNNE DEBYTIE MAIOR OF CONWAY ESQ. THE SONE OF THOMAS WYNNE WHO DIED THE 16<sup>th</sup> OF 9<sup>ber</sup> 1664." On a mural tablet above the altar, "John Wynn Esq. was buried the 19 Daye of November Anno Domini 1637." He was sheriff of Caernarvonshire in 1635. On a tombstone of black marble in the north-east corner, "Here Lieth The Body of John Williams of Brymor Esq<sup>r</sup>. 4<sup>th</sup> son of S<sup>r</sup> Griff. Williams of Penrhyn Baronet who departed this life the 25<sup>th</sup> of July in the 63<sup>rd</sup> year of his age, and the year of our Lord, 1706." The chapel, which forms the south transept, contains several monumental inscriptions, from which the following are selected. On the south side, "Johannes Hookes, Arm. hunc tumulum fieri fecit in memoriam celeberrimi viri Hugonis Hookes, Arm. patris sui, qui obiit 27 die Julii, A. D. 1600." On the same side are these Latin verses,

Impiger errantes oculos converte viator,  
 Funera lamentis spargere nostra piis;  
 Hic tua res agitur, mortalia funera cursu  
 Volvere precipiti pulvere disce meo.

In the south west corner, on a raised tombstone is the following inscription, “Edward’ Holland armiger posuit hoc memoriale Hollandorum ad requisicoem. Hugonis Holland Ar. pris sui paulo ante obitum, qui obiit 13 die Maii A<sup>o</sup>. D<sup>i</sup>. 1534.— By the side of this stone lyeth buried William Williams, Esq, together with his wife Margaret, eldest daughter and heir of William Holland of Marl, Esq<sup>r</sup>. she An. Dom. 1641 and 1673.—Beneath lyeth the body of Holland son of William Margaret his wife, who departed this life the first day of January 1680. An- nos natus 40.”

There were formerly four bells in the steeple, of which the second and the great bell only remain; the first has been destroyed many years ago, and the third on the day that the late Sir Thomas Mostyn, Bart. attained his majority; the smaller bell has upon it this inscription, GLORIA IN DEO. 1634. The large bell has a remarkably fine tone, and its circumference at the outer edge is twelve feet; its height is three feet: on it are the words, *abe fidelis dia werburga santissyma felix in choro virginum.* Below this inscription, *ora pro nobis dominum,*

and under this, **johes burchynshaw abbas cestre.** This bell was probably brought here from the abbey of St. Werburgh in Chester at the dissolution. John Burchenshaw was made Abbot in 1493 ; about twelve years after, he was displaced on account of some faction, but he was re-instated in 1530, where he continued until his death in 1535. This bell is rung with a wheel of thirty feet in circumference, and is generally used to toll for church service and funerals. The steeple is about sixty five feet high. The living is a vicarage in the gift of the Plasisav family, now represented by Sir David Erskine, Bart. A moiety of the tithes is annually distributed among the poor of Aberconwy, and the three parishes of Creiddyn; this impropriation is a bequest of Serjeant Owen, an extract from whose will is inserted in the Appendix. The parish of Aberconwy is of no great extent; on the south it is bounded by the river Gyffin, which separates it from the parish of the same name; on the south west the boundary leaves the river between Bryn y gunog and Hendre, and crossing the town mountain it descends to the sea through Savn Cristian, where it touches the parish of Dygyvylchi.

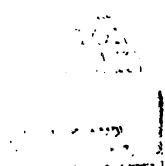
Among the customs of the town I may notice one, which is at present kept up here only; and under the name of *stocsio*, it has been observed from time immemorial. On Easter Sunday, crowds of boys and men proceed with wands of gorse to proclaim on Pen twthil the laws and regulations, which are to be observed on the following morning. The bride-groom who has been last married is always sought for to perform the office of crier; mounted on a heap of stones, he calls the attention of his audience, who listen respectfully with their hats off, and he proclaims notices to the following import: that all men under sixty years of age are to appear in the street before six o'clock on the following morning, and all under forty before four, and all under twenty not to go to bed at all under penalty of being put in the stocks. After proclaiming these and similar notices, loud cheers are given, and the audience separate, the younger part to form plans for their amusement during the night, and those, who own any carts or other vehicles, to secure them with chains and locks, as they well know that they will be in requisition on the following day. At an early hour on the morrow, the stocks are placed at the bottom of the street, and a party headed by a

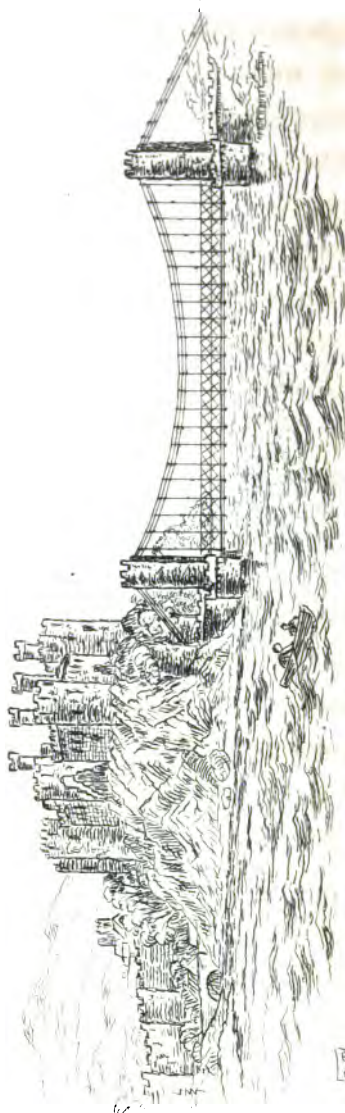
file and drum proceed with a cart to convey delinquents to the place of punishment : when they come to a house where a proper object resides, the storming party try by all the means in their power to gain access into the house, and by climbing to the windows with ladders, or by forcing back-doors, they generally succeed. The culprit being arrested, and having time allowed him to dress, if caught in bed, is placed in the cart, and triumphantly hurried to the stocks : where one of the party, having secured his feet, gives him a lecture upon the heinousness of idleness and breaking an old established custom ; then taking hold of his right hand, he asks him a few questions such as these : Whether he likes better the mistress or the maid, ale or butter-milk ; whether he would go through the gate of a field if open, or over the stile, &c. If in his answers he fixes upon what is obviously preferable, his hand is the more thickly covered with some dirty mud, and he is then released with cheers. This sport which would be impracticable in a larger and less intimate community is continued with the greatest good humour until eight ; when the rest of the day is spent in playing at ball in the castle. The same custom used not long ago to be observed also on Whitmonday. It is



also customary on *nos Calanmai*, or the eve of the first of May, for the young men to fix on the house of their beloved, some rosemary tied with ribbons; while the prude is greeted with a penglog, or part of a horse's skeleton, or a gwr gwellt.

The river Conwy takes its rise from Llyn Conwy, situate among the mountains near Penmachno, at the southern extremity of the county. It runs by Ysbytty Ivan, and in the course of a few miles, by the addition of numerous mountain streams, and avon Llugwy, which joins it below Bettws y coed, it becomes a considerable river. With the exception of Trev vaenan and Creiddyn, it forms the eastern boundary of Caernarvonshire; the tide flows about twelve miles up to Trevriw, to which place it is navigable for small vessels. Its course from its rise is about thirty miles, and the picturesque scenery in its neighbourhood is unrivalled; having gained its level after an impetuous descent through varied glens and over rocks, it seems to form by its windings a succession of extensive lakes down to Aberconwy. There is a ferry over it at Tal y cavn, about four miles above the castle; the ferry at Aberconwy, was retained as royal property, and an order was issued by





CON WY

Edward II. for either the repairing the boat, or building a new one, for the use of which the inhabitants were to pay eight marks.<sup>2</sup> Both the ferries were subsequently rented by the corporation. The ferry at Aberconwy laterly belonged to the proprietor of the Marl estates, who was indemnified for the loss sustained by the erection of the bridge. On Christmas day 1806, owing to a heavy swell in the river, the boat conveying the Irish mail with eight passengers, the coach-man, guard, and a boy, in all fifteen in number, including the boat-men, was upset, and two only escaped with their lives.

The elegant bridge, which with the embankment connects the opposite shores, is of great advantage as well as convenience to the town and the neighbouring country. It was built by the same contractors that erected the Menai bridge: the supporting pillars are made to correspond with the castle towers, and each pillar consists of two towers of solid masonry, with a gateway between. The roadway is made of layers of plank, affixed by vertical bars to two sets of suspending chains, each

<sup>2</sup> Pennant's Tour in Wales, III. 126.

of which contain four chains, and each chain five bars ; the chains are extended from the pillars over the roadway, and are fastened into the rock under the castle on one side, and deep into the solid rock of the island on the other. The distance between the pillars is 327 feet. The vast embankment which connects the island with the opposite shore measures 2013 feet in length ; the materials being clay, flanked with loose stones, have firmly withstood the most violent gales ; and it promises to be a lasting monument of the enterprising genius of the projector.

On the town mountain are very extensive remains of a British castle, known by the name of *Castell Seion*: it is situated on the highest brow of the hill, and commands a most extensive prospect. Like the generality of the fortresses of the ancient Welsh, this was not a town for general residence, but merely a place of refuge in time of war, where they placed their families and cattle ; for this purpose they generally selected a spot in the centre of their woods, on the eminence of a mountain, and besides the natural advantages of these posts, they were also secured by regular ramparts and fosses. The remains of Castell

Seion ~~which~~ cover a considerable portion of ground, but the citadel was of a triangular form, with a right angle, its sides are one hundred and thirty-five and one hundred and eighty feet respectively, and the hypotenuse from east to west two hundred and fifty feet; the walls were built of uncemented stones and the great quantity now lying there prove that it must have been high and thick; the rest of the summit is occupied by round circles of stones, above twenty of which remain, their diameters averaging about thirty-three feet; the ground is also intersected by numerous fosses, and the whole defended by a rampart, which may be traced for a great extent around. In the sixth century it was the seat of *Gwalch Gorsedd*, when Maelgwn Gwynedd went from Dyganwy, to decide the dispute for superiority between the poets and musicians; he caused both parties to swim over the Conwy; the harps and crwths were spoiled, consequently the poets, whose tools could not be damaged, were victorious. There is a poem extant, written by Iorwerth Beli to the bishop of Bangor about the year 1240, which gives an account of this circumstance: it is preserved in the *Myvyrian Archæology of Wales*. vol. 1. p. 476.

The land to the east of Aberconwy, between the river and the sea is called Creiddyn, a name derived from its form; it is a cwmwd, or commot, in the cantrev of Rhos, but in the county of Caernarvon; it contains the three parishes of Llangystenina, Eglwys Rhos, and Llandudno: and it is bounded on every side by water, except the south, where the parishes of Llansantffraid glan Conwy, and Llandrillo yn Rhos adjoin.

#### LLANSANTFFRAID.

IN this parish, not far from Hendrewaelod, is a very large cromlech; known by the name of *Aller Moloch*; it consists of five upright stones about three feet and a half high, on which rests an immense top stone; the greatest length of this is twelve feet, breadth eight feet, and the greatest thickness four feet; its probable weight about twenty-two tons: behind are two upright stones, each about nine feet high from the floor of the cromlech, and about six feet distant from each other. The church is dedicated to Sant Ffraid; or St. Bride; and her legend, as recorded by Iorwerth Vynghwyd, an eminent poet of the fifteenth century, is inserted in the Appendix. There lies buried here a sister of archbishop Williams, who

was married to Sir Peter Mutton, chief justice of North-Wales: he died in 1637, and was buried at Henllan. The chief mansion houses in this parish are Bryneisteddfod, a residence of the Rev. H. Chambres Jones, archdeacon of Essex; and Hendrewaelod, the seat of Robert Williams, Esq. the representative of the respectable family of the Lloyds of Llangystennin.

#### LLANDRILLO YN RHOS.

On the summit of Bryn eurn, in this parish, was Llys Maelgwn Gwynedd, where he resided before he removed to Dyganwy: there still remain evidences of an early fortification here; on the south side the rock is cut precipitously, similarly to Dyganwy hill, and the remains of a rampart on the other side are discernible: within the area there is a circle of thirteen yards in diameter, and three graves, fifteen yards long by seven wide. The valley on the south is called *Nant Sempyr*, a name supposed to be derived from a Roman general, possibly Sempronius; that the Romans have visited this neighbourhood is corroborated by a silver coin of Hadrian, lately dug up in a field here; *Leg. HADRIANVS AVG-VSTVS. Rev. TRANQVILLITAS AVG*



**COS III. P. P.** Nearer the church on the same hill are the ruins of a large house, Plas Bryneuryn ; the residence of Ednyved Vychan, in the beginning of the thirteenth century, the able minister and general of Llywelyn the Great ; having attacked the army of Ranulph, earl of Chester, and having defeated it with great slaughter, he slew three of the chief commanders, and brought their heads to prince Llywelyn, who thereupon honoured him with a new achievement, viz. Gules, a chevron ermine, between three Englishmen's heads, coupéd proper ; which coat his descendants bear ever since : before this exploit he bore the arms of his ancestor Marchudd, lord of Uwchdulas, Gules, a Saracen's head, erased, proper ; environed about the temples with a wreath, or, and gules. Ednyved Vychan "built a chapel, and had licence of the Pope for evermore to sing divine service therein for his soul, and his ancestors' and progenitors' souls always : and had authority to give his tithes and oblations to his chaplain there serving." The chapel, built by Ednyved, formed the west half of the north aisle of the present church, with a small cupola at the west end : this side or aisle was afterwards lengthened by the parishioners, when their church was destroyed by the sea ; and in the north wall of

the old chapel there are to be seen two arches, which communicated with Ednyved's seat. The south aisle was built by the ladies Conwy, the descendants of Gruffydd Goch, lord of Rhos and Rhyvoniog, and collaterally also of Ednyved; they were the last occupiers of the palace of Bryneuryn, and they left a large sum towards building the present handsome tower. In 1818, when lowering the church yard on the south side of the church, an immense quantity of bones were discovered heaped together confusedly; they were most probably conveyed from the church-yard of the original church, which was situated considerably lower down, at the time it was destroyed by the sea. At a very low ebb, and when a strong south west wind prevails, the waves may be distinctly seen breaking upon a sarn or causeway, which runs into the sea from Great Orme's head, about four miles below Llandrillo church; and it is still called the *muriau*, or the walls. Morva Rhianedd, a great extent of territory which the sea has now overwhelmed, reached to an unknown distance below Abergele and the present shore of the north of Flintshire. Below the church is Rhos vynach, the Marsh of the monks; there is a very large wear, which runs from this point, in which great

quantities of fish are frequently captured; the vicar of Llandrillo and the bishop of St. Asaph have every tenth tide between them. An exclusive grant of all the fisheries along this coast, below the commot of Isdulas, was made to Morgan ab John ab David, of Maesegwig, an ancestor of the present proprietor, Thomas Parry, Esq. of Rhosvynach, by the great earl of Leicester, who had the lordship of Denbigh. This indenture is dated the 30th of June, 17th of Elizabeth. Near the wear on the shore is a small structure called Capel Trillo, or St. Trillo's chapel, the saint to whom the church is dedicated; its form is oblong, with a small window, or rather loop hole, in each side, and at the end, a very small doorway, and a stone roof; within is a well of excellent water: this building is generally supposed to have been a chapel, where prayers were offered for success in fishing. I am more inclined however to agree with another suggestion, that it was built merely to preserve the well, which is the only one in the neighbourhood; it is too small for a chapel, being only eleven feet long, by eight wide. In the church, near the altar is a tomb stone with the following inscription in Saxon letters, HIC IACET DNS: EDNEVED: QVODAM VICARIVS: DEDYNEYRT: C'

**AN. PROPITIETVR DEVS AMEN.** Din-  
erth is another name for Llandrillo. The *gwyl*  
*mab sant*, or saint's day, is the 16th of June. The  
rectory is a sinecure held since 1759 by the bishops  
of St. Asaph in commendam, and the vicarage is  
in the gift of the bishop; the rector and vicar have  
also a share of the tithes of Llanelian, Llansant-  
ffraid, and Llysyaen.

#### LLANGYSTENIN.

This church is dedicated to Cystennyn, the son  
of Cynvor, who was elected to the royal dignity by  
the Britons about A. D. 390. In Pope Nicholas's  
taxation in A. D. 1291, it is called a chapel to  
Abergele; it is now a rectory attached to the  
bishoprick. In the church there are some fragments  
of finely painted glass; the first figure in the east  
window represents the resurrection of our Saviour,  
and the other St. George vanquishing the dragon,  
in complete armour on a horse richly caparisoned;  
the human figure is tolerably perfect, but a portion  
only of the horse remains. In the adjoining win-  
dow are four figures in good preservation; the first  
is Justice holding her balance, at one end of which  
is represented a sinner, and at the other his sins,  
with the devil pulling underneath to make it pre-

ponderate ; the second is a bishop in his pontificals, with mitre and crosier, and rings on his fingers, with the imperfect inscription **nícolau** ; the next figure is St. Peter, with **sanctus petrus** beneath ; the fourth is a female with the inscription **sancta katherina**.

#### EGLWYS RHOS.

The parish church is prettily situated in a flat, not far from Bryn Maelgwn, a precipitous rock clothed with wood ; it is in a very neat condition, being adorned with a painted window, and a handsomely carved font by the liberality of the late Miss Frances Mostyn of Bodysgallen ; there had been a painted window here at a much earlier period, the gift of Hywel ab Tudor of Mostyn, according to what Mr. Pennant could collect from the imperfect inscription ; the fragments have been carefully preserved, and placed in the new window ; one consists of the figure of a man kneeling at a table, and dressed in a herald's mantle with the arms of Englefield ; argent, a cross engrailed sable between four Cornish choughs : beneath are the words **filii dei iesu miserere mi**, and in the next compartment **hoolt armigeri qui bec—** and in the adjoining window is the figure of a

saint, which is a part of the original window. The south transept belongs to Gloddaith, below which is the burial place of the family, and the north to Marl. The parish is divided into the townships of Penrhyn, Gloddaith, Ferm, Cwm, Bryniau, Penclas, Trev hir, and Trev ferry. Gloddaith and Bodysgallen are tithe free, the rest are impropriated, and now possessed by the Mostyn family, by purchase from the Owens of Bodsilin; the perpetual curacy is in the gift of the Bishop. On a raised tombstone in the north of the chancel is the following inscription; "Here lyeth the Body of MARGARET WYNNE third daughter of Colonel HUGH WYNNE of BODYSGALLEN (who at his own expense raised a Regiment of Foot for the service of King Charles the first & was a great sufferer for the ROYAL CAUSE) by Ellen his Wife only Daughter of RICHARD VAUGHAN, Esq. of Cors y gedol. MARGARET was born on the 9<sup>th</sup> of Nov<sup>r</sup> 1657, Dy'd on the 21<sup>st</sup> & was buried on the 25<sup>th</sup> of January 1736-7. Here also do lie the Bodies of HUGH WYNNE, born May 23<sup>rd</sup> & Bury'd May 24<sup>th</sup> 1686, of GRIFFITH WYNNE born May 2<sup>nd</sup> 1687, & Buried January 1687-8, and of JOHN WYNNE born August 18<sup>th</sup> and Buried Sep<sup>r</sup> 2<sup>nd</sup> 1688. the three eldest sons of Robert Wynne of Bodysgallen Esq<sup>r</sup> (son and heir

of the said Coll. **HUGH WYNNE**) by Ellen his wife, Daughter and heiress to **ROBERT WYNNE** of Plas Mawr in the Town of Conway." In the churchyard, near the east wall of the south transept, are three tombstones, in memory of some of the Pughs of Penrhyn; the middle stone has the following inscription;

" Nostra sub hoc sculpto pars est vilissima saxo.

"Mens sua fert coelum iure cadaver humum."

**Robertus Pue de Penrhyn** obiit **XXIII Augusti Anno Domini 1659, Anno Ætatis suæ 60**; or thus in English;

" Our basest part is under this carv'd stone,

" its soul hath heaven by right earth fleash and bone."

The late **Miss Frances Mostyn** of Bodysgallen, whose memory will be long and deservedly revered for her extensive benevolence, and christian charity, hath founded a school here for boys and girls, which in addition to a house, has an endowment of forty pounds a year for the master; it was opened on the fourth of June, 1822. There are in this parish four mansion houses, which have belonged to families of influence, and long standing; **Penrhyn, Gloddaith, Bodysgallen, and Marl.** **Penrhyn** was for several centuries the seat of the

family of Pugh, the last of whom married the heiress of Coytmor, and having issue two daughters only, the name is now extinct. Robert Pugh of Penrhyn Creiddyn was sheriff of Caernarvonshire in 1561. This family was descended from Ebdnyved Vychan, and his arms are carved in stone on the house. The more recent part of the house was built in 1590, according to the date above the fire-place, but the chief part at a much earlier period; for Leland observes in his Itinerary, "Place Penrine an auncient stone house by Est North Est on the shore belonging to Mr. Poel of Flintshire." At a short distance from the house is the family chapel, now desecrated into a stable; it is about twenty-five feet long, by fifteen wide; the altar table of stone is recollected by several now living; by a grant of pope Nicholas, three fourths of the tithe of Penrhyn were attached to this chapel, and the same is now vested in the estate. The family for a long period after the reformation professed the Roman catholic religion, and they kept a priest, who officiated in this chapel for themselves, and a few catholic neighbours; in connection with this circumstance is the following anecdote, which is current in the neighbourhood: it is said that a plot was formed here to put to death



all the protestants in Creiddyn, and for the accomplishment of this deed a body of men was to arrive at a certain time of the night; previously to their coming, great preparations were made in preparing provisions, and a servant of Gloddaith, who paid his addresses to a woman in the service of the family, finding her engaged at an unseasonable hour, obtained by his urgent enquiries a knowledge of the conspiracy: he immediately hastened home, and disclosed what he had heard to his master, who with the greatest despatch procured a troop of horse, and invested Penrhyn. This speedy intervention frustrated their designs, and some of the inmates escaped, while others were taken; but the priest, who was supposed to be the contriver of the plot, for some time eluded the strict search made for him: it happened however that some persons, being in a boat out at sea, observed smoke ascending from Rhiwleden rock, which circumstance exciting their curiosity, they hastened there, and in a small cave called *Ty yn y graig*, which is about ninety feet from the summit, and the approach to which is extremely difficult, the priest was discovered; he was drawn and quartered in a field below the house, and his name, Sir William Guy, is even preserved; there was a

hole behind the house called *Twll arvan cant o wyr*, where it was supposed that the arms were concealed; and after the departure of the Pughs to Coytmor, among other things left behind, was an old trunk, which the tenants and some of their neighbours opened, and found therein a withered hand, which is supposed to have been one of the members of this same priest.

As these traditionary accounts are generally interesting, I shall make no apology for inserting another, still more curious, relating to Penrhyn, the truth of which seems never to have been doubted by the neighbourhood. At the time of the following occurrence, the family at Penrhyn consisted of a son and two daughters; the former, according to the practice of the age, went on his travels abroad; but before he set out, he took the precaution of putting a needle between one of the joists and the ceiling in the little kitchen, and he also drove the tooth of a harrow into a pear tree in the orchard. After a lapse of many years, and all hopes of his return being given over, he arrived a beggar, and coming home he found his parents dead, and his sisters in possession of his property. He stated who he was; but the sisters insisted

that he was an imposter, asserting that they were certified of their brother's death: to prove his identity, he said that the needle would be found in a certain place, and as a further proof he named a particular tree into which he had driven the harrow tooth. The needle was found, and when they followed him to the orchard, he removed the bark which had grown over the iron, and showed it to the sisters: notwithstanding he was forcibly ejected from the premises, and it is said that he was flogged with a whip, in which large pins were fixed; as an additional punishment of his supposed imposture. He was received into a neighbouring cottage by the inhabitants, who had known him before he went abroad; and were satisfied of his identity; he remained here for some time; but having gone out one day, he was missed, and never returned. Although his fate was surmised, no clue could be obtained to what had become of him; and this mysterious event was constantly talked of by the country, and successively handed down from father to son; to this cause also the common people, fond of the marvellous, have assigned the decay of the family, as being under a curse, which had once been of the highest respectability; the estates have long been sold, and the

family is now extinct. It is always difficult to arrive at the exact date of this sort of traditionary tales; but as the great grandson of the person, who received the outcast into his house, is now living, this and some other circumstances will enable us to place this occurrence about a hundred and fifty years ago. To make the above account complete, I should observe that Mr. Hughes, the tenant at Penrhyn, not many years since, had occasion to build a lime-kiln, and in a fissure of the rock, filled with soil, he discovered a perfect skeleton, immediately behind the house.

The greater part of the present house of Glodd-aith was built by Thomas Mostyn, in the reign of queen Elizabeth; but there was a residence here of the ancient family of Glodd-aith for several centuries before. In 1448, Gruffydd ab Rhys ab Gruffydd ab Madoc Glodd-aith ab Madoc ab Ierwerth Goch of Creiddyn lost seven children in the same week, who died of the plague; on which occasion the following elegy was written by Robin Ddu ab Siencin, an eminent bard, who flourished from 1440, to 1470. As the original has never been printed, it is here inserted.

**COWYDD MARWNAD PUMAB A DWY FERCH O  
LODDAITH.**

“ Sorri dduw penn saer idd wyd,  
 Saith o Gloddaith a gladdwyd.  
 Aethost, bu dost y byd ynn,  
 Er ys wythnos ar seithnyn:  
 Un blaid facwyaid cowir,  
 Yn blant i un sant o’n sir.  
 Yn frig oedd bendeſgaidd,  
 O bren dihareb i wraidd.  
 Y prenn oedd Ruffydd ap Rys;  
 Mwy na gwinllan mewn gwenllys:  
 A’r plant dyhuddiant haeddawd,  
 Ydoedd y brig hyd dydd brawd.  
 Gwae finau i gyfiownwr,  
 Gwypio gwydd ag imp y gwr:  
 Darfu o’r benadurfainc,  
 I dwyn i gyd, ond un gainc.  
 Da yw’r un, mab Duw a ro  
 Cynnydd ar y gainc honno.  
 Bwriwyd gweilch, briwyd y gwýdd,  
 Bro gonwy fal bwrw gwinwydd.  
 Band oer o boen a dirwy,  
 Barwniaid teg i bwrw’n’ twy:  
 Bu ar i gwlad berigl waith,  
 Braw o’i claddu brig Cloddaith.  
 Crio oedd yn y Creuddyn,  
 Ag wylo tost, gweled hynn.  
 Gwaeddodd y bobl, bann guddiwyd  
 Gwydd gwin, a llin Robin llwyd.  
 Gwan yw’r Creuddyn, ag unig,  
 Gruffudd sy brudd, eisiau brig;

Gresyn, myn y gwir Oswallt,  
 Oedd gri hwnn, a'i ddagrau hallt.  
 Gresyn dyras grynn dros gred,  
 Gresynach oedd gri Sioned;  
 Am ddwyn gemau o ddynion,  
 A cheirw, a brig yn ochr bronn.  
 Y mae'n noeth heb un mann iach,  
 Coed tewion i gyd haeach.  
 Duw a rann blodau ar wŷdd,  
 Ag a wna brig o newydd.  
 Pan aeth Crist un pennaeth cred,  
 A thylwyth a etholed;  
 Wyth oedd unwaith o eiddun,  
 Am y saith mae oes i un.  
 Y mab hynaf oedd Ddafydd,  
 I nef idd aeth, pan fu i ddydd.  
 Och heno mae achwyn mawr,  
 O roi Wilim ar elawr;  
 A Rhys deg nid arhoes dim,  
 Ar i ol orwyr Wilim.  
 Pell i rhoed mewn pwll a rhaw,  
 Llywelyn nid llai wylaw.  
 Pumaib ydoedd o feibion;  
 Pumed aur seined syrr Sion.  
 Am ddwyn, pwy ni chwyn y chwedl,  
 Y merched y mae oerchwedl.  
 Catrin liw'r hin, ne loer haf;  
 Nid oedd hên ydoedd hynaf:  
 Nid enwaf onid unwaith,  
 Annes wenn, hynny yw saith.  
 Un dad ag un garid gynt,  
 Fymuddiaid un fam oeddynt.

Un lliw i'n gwlad, un llun glwys,  
 Un bryd, ag un baradwys.  
 Un foddau blodau o blant:  
 Un feddwl yn nef fyddant.  
 Un luniaeth, un oleuni,  
 Un blaid nef, a'n blodau ni.

## TRANSLATION.

Offended art thou, O Lord almighty! Seven from Gloddaith have been laid in the grave. Grievous has the world been to seven persons in a week: a family of ingenuous youths, children of a revered countryman. Of high rank were the branches, from a tree proverbial for its root. The tree was Gruffydd ab Rhys, who surpassed the luxuriance of a vineyard: and the children, a consolation deserving of all panegyric, were the branches, even to the day of judgment. Woe is me, their justifier, that these scions have fallen. They are all removed from their exalted seat, except one branch: this one is good, may the Son of God give increase to it! Heroes have been thrown, the trees have been broken, in the district of Conwy. A company of fair lords, cold from pain and grief, bore them. The country had a work of danger, and fright, in burying them, the branches of Gloddaith. There was weeping in Creuddyn, and bitter lamentation on seeing this. The people cried out loudly, when the vine branches were covered up, the descendants of Robin Llwyd. Creuddyn is faint and solitary; Gruffydd is downcast, wanting his branches. Piteous, by the holy Oswald, was his cry, and salt tears. Still more piteous was the cry of Sioned; being bereaved of distinguished men, deerlike, branches which flourished on the side of a hill. Thick trees are almost all bare now, with no place unhurt. O may God distribute blossoms on the trees, and produce branches anew! There were once eight of them, one only now exists. The eldest was Davydd, he went to heaven, when his day came. Alas! to-night there is great

lamentation in putting William upon the bier. And fair Rhys tarried not behind after the worthy William. Deep in the grave was placed Llywelyn, not less lamented. Five in number were the sons; the fifth was the beloved Sion. For the daughters there is great grief; The youthful Catrin was the eldest, whose complexion equalled the serene sky, or the summer moon; the seventh was the fair Annes. They were the beloved of one father, the offspring of one mother; one ornament of our country, one fair form, one thought, and one paradise. One series of blossoms, one mind they will be in heaven. One form, one light, one heavenly company, and our ornaments.

By this calamity Margaret became sole heiress, and her marriage in 1460, with Hywel ab Ievan Vychan of Mostyn brought the Gloddaeth estate to that family, with whom it still continues. The tenure of this place was perfectly free, and the tenants owed only suit and service to the county and hundred courts; and when they went to attend the prince in war, they went at his expense.<sup>3</sup> There was preserved here an excellent collection of books and Welsh manuscripts, which have been lately removed to Mostyn, and they greatly enrich the valuable library previously existing there.

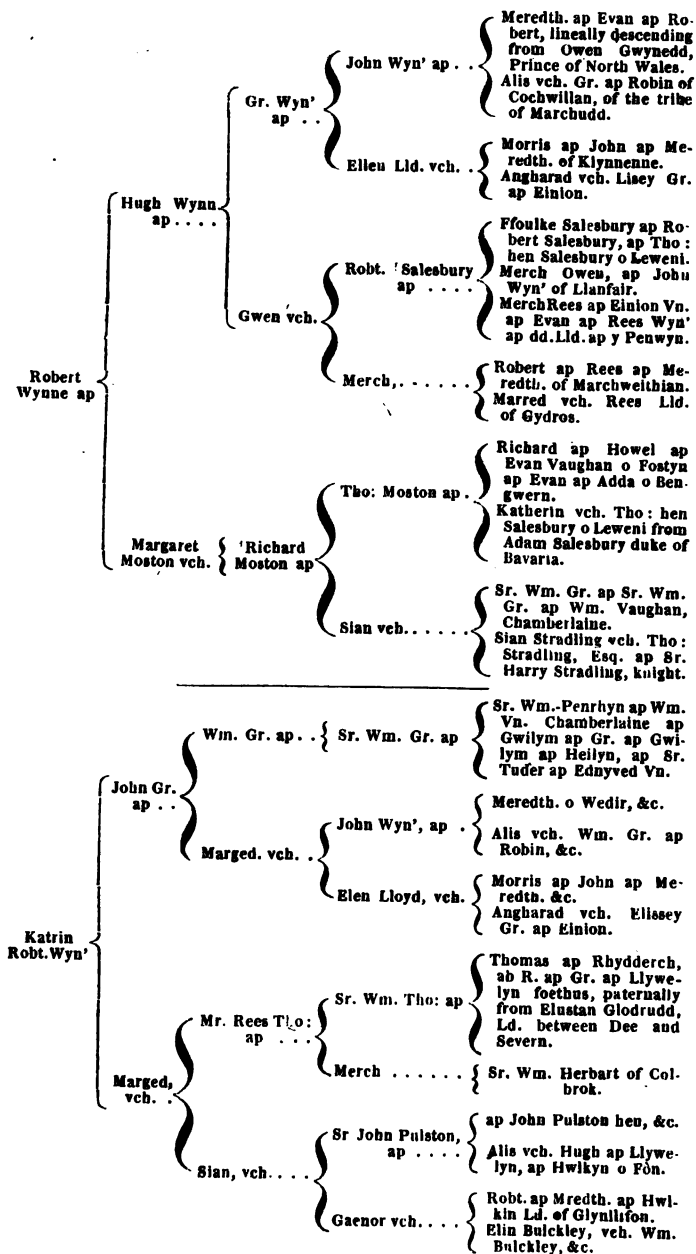
Bodysgallen is a name evidently derived from

<sup>3</sup> Pennant's Tour in Wales, III. 145.



**Bod Caswallon.** Near this site was a residence of Caswallon Law Hir, who succeeded to the sovereignty of North Wales in 443, and died in 517, after enjoying it for the long period of seventy-four years. There are some remains still to be seen of an ancient structure, on the top of a small hill in the adjoining wood, now overgrown with thorns. The present house has been built, and had additions made to it at several different periods: the original building was the square tower, which is of great antiquity; similar to this is Tower, near Mold, and there was one of the same kind at Mostyn. Richard Mostyn, second son of Thomas ab Richard ab Hywel of Mostyn, had possession of Bodysgallen in the time of Henry VIII. He was sheriff for Caernarvonshire in 1572. He had an only daughter Margaret, who was married to Hugh, the son of Gruffydd Wynne of Berthdu, second son of John Wynne ab Meredydd of Gwydir. Their heir Robert was father to colonel Hugh Wynne, who so greatly distinguished himself by his loyalty in the reign of Charles I. The following pedigree is from an old manuscript.

# BODYSGALLEN AND BERTHDDU.



Robert, the son and heir of Colonel Hugh Wynne, in 1683 married Ellen, only daughter and heiress to Robert Wynne of Plas mawr in Aberconwy. The male line ended in their son Robert Wynne, who died a bachelor in 1762, and the estates fell to Margaret, the daughter of his brother, Dr. Hugh Wynne; and in right of her mother the heiress of Plas hen, Corsygedol, and Bodidris: her marriage with Sir Roger Mostyn, Bart. of Gloddaith brought the estates to that family. The last Mr. Wynne represented the boroughs of Caernarvonshire in parliament, and will be remembered in the annals of hospitality for his plentiful long tables and substantial Christmas dinners.<sup>4</sup>

The mansion-house of Marl was built in 1661, according to the date on the beam in the hall; it is beautifully situated under a lofty lime rock, and surrounded by large trees, immediately opposite the town of Aberconwy. The greater portion consists only of the outward walls, having been reduced to this condition by a fire about ninety years ago, which arose from negligence in airing the books. The iron gates in front were formerly gilt, and upon them are the initials G. W.

<sup>4</sup> Yorke's Royal Tribes. See also the Bill of Fare in the Appendix to Pennant's Tour.

with the crest of the Penrhyn family, *pen Sais*, an Englishman's head. It was originally the property of the Hollands, and afterwards of the Williams' of Penrhyn. Sir Griffith Williams, who had been created a baronet in 1661, had nineteen children; twelve of whom lived to be men and women: among his six sons, he divided, by will in 1663, his vast estates, which comprised nearly a third of the county of Caernarvon; leaving Marl with Conwy ferry and other property to his second son Hugh. The latter, upon the death of his nephew Sir Griffith Williams of Penrhyn, Bart. without issue, succeeded to the title, and was followed by his son Sir Griffith Williams of Marl, who was sheriff of Caernarvonshire in 1708. He married Catherine, eldest daughter and heiress to Owen Anwyl of Penrhyn Dewdraeth in Meirion, Esq. by whom he had several children who died young; one son only, Robert, arrived at man's estate, and he left also a daughter, Anne. Sir Robert Williams of Marl, Pantglas, Park and Llwyn, was the last of this branch who enjoyed the title of baronet; for, dying without issue, the baronetcy devolved on Sir Hugh Williams, who was the grandson of Edmund Williams of Arianws, Esq. (the third son of Sir Griffith Williams of Penrhyn)

and it is now enjoyed by his grandson, Sir Richard Bulkeley Williams Bulkeley of Baronhill. The estates went to the sister Anne, who was married to Sir Thomas Prendergast, a baronet of Ireland, and postmaster general of that kingdom ; he sold Llwyn to Lewis Nanney, Esq. and Park to William Wynn of Wern, Esq. After his death, his widow was married to Captain Tearence Prendergast, from whose heirs, the estate of Marl passed, by purchase, to Thomas Williams of Llanidan, Esq. late member of parliament for Marlow. It is now possessed by his grandson, Thomas Pyers Williams, Esq. the present member for the same borough.

The remains of Dyganwy castle are on two small hills, and the intervening ground. Its form was oblong, but the walls were very irregular, owing to the peculiarity of its site : the larger hill has its sides cut, so as to form a high precipice, and the wall was built on the edge of the summit ; the top of this hill has also been levelled, and the excavation in the centre formed the keep ; the wall ran down the south side across the intervening space to the summit of the second hill, about half of which it takes in ; it then returned, from east

to west, to the north side of the precipice. There were two entrances, facing the north and south, which are easily to be observed; they were evidently strengthened by towers and advanced works, which the remains of their foundations still indicate. The moat, now dry, is visible; and on the summit of the first hill are portions of the walls; but the masses on the south are from the upper part of the original wall, which being undermined, was thrown down, and these lie out of the line of the foundations: the angles were strengthened by towers of solid masonry.<sup>5</sup> The name given at present to this castle is *Castell y Vaerdrev*. At no great distance, on the summit of a hill near Bryniau, is a tower which was probably an outpost of this castle. Its form is circular, being about twelve feet in diameter, and twenty in height. There are marks of two floors within, and there are three rows of square holes

<sup>5</sup> Not long ago, a head carved in stone was found here, and is preserved at Bodysgallen. In the road of Tyddyn Holland, between Bodavon and Rhiw, was a grit stone, about a yard long, from which the following inscription was copied in 1731.

S A N C T

A N V S

S A C R I

I S I S

round the inside, none of which pass through the wall ; as about a third of the circle is open from top to bottom, and this opening being in the direction of the castle, it might be supposed that there were originally lines of walls, which, forming an angle, were strengthened by this tower ; but there are no remains whatever to corroborate this conjecture. The wall is very thick, and the masonry is altogether different from what remains of the castle ; it may therefore have been built at the time of the first fortification of Dyganwy by Maelgwn Gwynedd. On the shore of the river is the modern Dyganwy, formerly the residence of the Stodarts, a name which frequently occurs among the English inhabitants of the borough of Aberconwy. William Stodart was sheriff of Caernarvonshire in 1754, and Hugh Stodart in 1774.

#### LLANDUDNO.

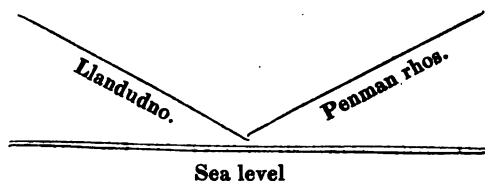
THE northernmost of the three parishes of Creiddyn is Llandudno, which includes the promontory of Gogarth, the intervening flat, and Rhiwleden, or Little Orme's head. It lies in the manor of Gogarth, which belongs to the see of Bangor ; and on the south-west side of Llandudno mountain are the ruins of Gogarth, a large palace at one

time of the bishops of Bangor ; but it has been in ruins even before Leland's time, who notices the circumstance in his Itinerary : " Ther is by Conway, on the hither side of Conway water, an arme like a peninsula called Gogarth, lying against Prestholme, and ther be the Ruines of a Place of the Bishops of Bangor." The church is dedicated to St. Tudno, who lived in the beginning of the sixth century : he was one of the sons of Seithenyn, king of the plain of Gwyddno, whose land was inundated, and he was a saint of the Bangor Dunod, or the college at Bangor, in Flintshire. There is a curious old screen in the church which is of great antiquity ; it is made of wood, and supposed to have been brought from the chapel at Gogarth. Being situated on the north side, the church is exposed from the bleakness of its situation, to violent gales in winter, and it is far removed from any dwelling. The *gwyl mabsant*, or festival day of the patron saint is the fifth of June. The tithes are appropriated to the archdeaconry of Merioneth. On an eminence above the village is Dinas, which, as its name implies, was a fortified post of the ancient Britons. A wall of great thickness encircles the summit of the hill, and within the area are great numbers of hollow cir-



cles, edged with stones, about twelve feet in diameter. This fortification is exactly similar to that on Conwy town mountain, on Penman mawr, and in many other places ; and it answered the same purpose, not for a constant residence, but only as a place of refuge on the approach of an enemy. Near this place is a *maen sigl*, or rocking stone, called *Cryd Tudno*, St. Tudno's cradle. It is an immense stone, which is so equally poised, that a very slight degree of pressure will enable a person to put it in motion. Not far from the mine works at Maes y Vacrell is a rude structure, consisting of upright stones surmounted by another transversely : the name of this cell is *Lletty y vilast*, the stone of the greyhound bitch ; this appellation was in allusion to the British Ceres, who was symbolized by the female greyhound. There is a large cromlech called *Llech y vilast*, in Glamorganshire, and another in Cardiganshire ; and *Gwâl y vilast* also in Caermarthenshire. The greater part of the population of Llandudno derive their livelihood from the copper mines, which have been carried on in every direction. The discovery of rude implements in old closed up shafts, such as hammers of stone, and chisels of bone thoroughly impregnated with copper, is an evidence of their

having been worked at a very remote period. The ore, which is found between the lime stone strata, is a green carbonate of copper, and it is generally very rich, but exceedingly variable in quantity. A new mine on the Gloddaith property has lately been opened, which produces a great quantity of ore, and that of a very rich kind; being sold for thirty-seven pounds a ton. All the ore is taken to South Wales to be smelted. There is a singularity in the formation of the rock of Llandudno to be observed; for the dip, instead of being similar to that of Penman rhos, is exactly the reverse; which I have not seen noticed by any geologist.



The extremity of the promontory *Pen Gogarth*, terminates in abrupt and rugged precipices of five hundred feet in perpendicular height; the hollows of which furnish breeding places for an infinite number of sea fowl. On the night of the first of January, 1824, it was the scene of a most lamentable shipwreck; the brig *Hornby*, bound from Liverpool with a valuable cargo for Brazil, struck

so nearly as to throw a man unhurt upon the rock who happened to be on the bowsprit, and he was the only one who was thus miraculously saved out of a crew of sixteen; the vessel was immediately after dashed to pieces. The most elevated part of the mountain is about seven hundred and fifty feet above the sea, and there was a signal station here in time of war: at present it is one of the telegraph stations in the line from Liverpool to Holyhead, the invention of Lieutenant Watson.

Although Gogarth has its sides now washed by the sea, it was formerly an inland mountain. Cantrev Gwaelod, which is celebrated as a "most delicate vale; abounding in fruitfulness, and excelling all other vales in fertility and plentifulness," extended from Bangor Vawr to Gogarth, and in breadth from Dygyvylchi to the point of Flintshire, which came up from Rhuddlan to Priestholme; in the upper end it reached from Llanvair fechan and Aber to the river Ell, which divided Arvon from Anglesey, and Anglesey from Flintshire. This river or strait flowed between Priestholme and Penmon, and discharged itself into the sea a great distance beyond Priestholme. The district belonged to Helig ab Glanawg, whose

palace stood about midway between Penman mawr and Gogarth, over against Trwyn yr wylva; which place is supposed to have had its name, "the point of the place of wailing," at this period; for it was to this place that the inhabitants with difficulty escaped, so sudden and overwhelming was the inundation; the Lavan Sands also derive their name, *Traeth Wylonain*, from the same event, which occurred in the beginning of the sixth century.

This inundation is still recorded in the traditional tales of the neighbourhood, with the following additions: it had been prophesied four generations previously, that vengeance would overtake the family of Helig ab Glanawg for the crimes of his ancestors. *Dial a ddaw, dial a ddaw*, was continually heard, although uttered by an invisible being: *yn amser dy wyrion, neu dy onwyrion*, was the appointed time, and the inundation was so sudden, that the servant, who, in going to the cellar to draw liquor, first observed the water, had only an opportunity of warning the harper of his danger, when all the others were overwhelmed by the flood in the midst of their festivities.

## NATURAL HISTORY.

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As the neighbourhood of Aberconwy, especially Creiddyn, in addition to its picturesque scenery, affords a rich treat to the naturalist, I shall sub-join the following notices of some of the more uncommon objects that are here met with. The most important under this head is the pearl fishery, which has been carried on for many years, and is peculiar to this river and the neighbouring Menai. There are two kinds of muscles found in the Conwy, from which pearls are obtained; *mya margaritifera*, *cragen y diluw*, and the *mytilus edulis*, *cragen lās*. Those of the former species are procured high up the river, above Trevriw, and pearls scarcely inferior to the oriental ones are occasionally found in them. The pearl which Sir Richard Wynne of Gwydir, chamberlain to Catherine, queen of Charles II, presented to her majesty, was of this kind, and it is said that it adorned the regal crown. These fine pearls are but seldom met with, although the shells are common, and the search of them does not afford regular

employment. This shell is five inches and a half long, and two and a half broad. The other variety, the *cragen las*, is found in abundance on the bar at the mouth of the river, and great quantities of the muscles are daily gathered by numbers of industrious persons. At ebb tide, the fishers, men, women, and children, may be observed busily collecting the muscles, until they are driven away by the flood. They then carry the contents of their sacks and baskets to *Cevnvro*, the northern extremity of the marsh, where the muscles are boiled; for this operation there are large *crochan-au*, or iron pots, placed in slight huts; or rather pits, as they are almost buried in a vast heap of shells. The fish are picked out, and put into a tub, and stamped with the feet until they are reduced to a pulp; when, water being poured in, the animal matter floats, which is called *solach*, and is used as food for ducks, while the sand, particles of stone, and the pearls, settle in the bottom. After numerous washings, the sediment is carefully collected and dried; and the pearls, even the most minute, are separated with a feather on a large wooden platter. The pearls are then taken to the agent, who pays for them so much an ounce; the price varies from one shilling and

sixpence to three shillings, according to the supply. Although the muscles are not so abundant as formerly, it is surprising that the great quantities collected have not exhausted the beds. The final destination of these pearls is completely hid in mystery, and is only known to the gentleman who buys them up, the fortunate possessor of what is a valuable secret.

The salmon caught in the Conwy is generally esteemed for its fine flavour, in which respect it has been pronounced not inferior to the produce of the Dee and Severn. This river is also famous for its *brwyniaid*, or sparlings, which pay their visit in January and February; they spawn in March and April, after which they depart: their stay seldom exceeding four weeks. They vary in size, but rarely do they exceed a foot in length, or more than half a pound in weight: It is a fish of a beautiful form and colour, the head being transparent, and the skin so thin, that with a microscope the blood may be observed to circulate. They have a very peculiar scent, which is compared by some to cucumber or violet, but more properly to rushes: and their Welsh name *brwyniaid* is derived from *brwyn*, rushes, owing to this circumstance.

In the spring, great quantities of sand eels are dug out below Twthill: they are of the size of sprats, and are found in the small gravel, about a foot from the surface of the sand. As the other fish which are taken in this river are of the usual kinds, they do not require to be particularly noticed.

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### BIRDS.

**Falco haliaetus.** Osprey. Gwalch y weilgi.

A fine specimen of this bird was shot by the gamekeeper in Gloddaith wood, in 1828.

**Falco peregrinus.** Falcon. Hebog dramor.

This beautiful and noble bird annually breeds in the rocks of Llandudno and Rhiwleden. Their eggs are generally four in number, of a reddish colour. They are so jealous of one another, that only one pair will be found to nestle in the same rock. Falconry was held in very great esteem by our ancestors, and according to the laws of Hywel Dda, the *Penhebogydd*, or chief falconer, was the fourth in rank among the twenty-four officers of the king's court; taking precedence of the judge of the palace, the head groom, and the chief huntsman. The following extract enumerates his privileges: "The fourth is the chief falconer. He is entitled to have a horse kept in readiness for him, and his land free. His seat in the palace is the fourth next to the king at mess. His lodging is the king's barn, that the smoke may not injure his birds. He ought to bring his vessel to the palace to have liquor in it, for he should only quench his thirst, lest any accident befall his birds. He is entitled to receive from the steward of the household a handbreadth of wax candle, that he may feed his birds, and make his bed. He is not obliged to pay a fee to the head groom; for the king him-



self renders him service on three occasions: when he hath let off his hawk, the king shall hold his horse; and when he alights, and when he mounts, he shall hold his stirrup; and he shall also hold his horse, if none of the assistants are near. He is entitled to the hearts, and the lights of the animals, that are killed in the kitchen, to feed his hawks. He is entitled to a barren sheep, or four-pence from the king's villains; and once a year he is entitled to a custom of provisions from the villains. He claims a third of any fine imposed on the falconers, and the commutation fee of their daughters. He is to have the skin of a stag in October, and in the spring, the skin of a hind, to make gloves for carrying his hawks, and to make jesses. He ought to be honoured with three presents the day his hawk kills one of these three birds, a bittern, a crane, or a heron. He claims the king's mantle in which he rides on the three principal festivals. His protection is to the queen. Others say, that it extends to the furthest place he set his hawk upon a quarry. He is entitled to the nestlings, and also to the nests of the falcons, and sparrow-hawks in the king's demesnes. From the time that he puts his hawk in a mew, until he takes it out, he is not obliged to answer any one in a suit at law, except one of his brother officers. The satisfaction for insulting him, is six cows, and one hundred and twenty-pence, with augmentation; his price, is one hundred and twenty six cows, with augmentation." <sup>5</sup> There was also the *cylch hebogyddion*, the entertaining and providing for the king's falconers. *Cylch* signifies a yearly tribute of provisions, or other things, paid to the king's officers, or servants, by those who held land under him, for particular objects; such was this *cylch hebogyddion*. There were also the *cylch dyvrgwn*, and the *cylch ystalon*. Mr. Pennant observes that lord Burleigh, in the reign of Elizabeth, sent a letter of thanks to an ancestor of the Mostyns, for a present of a cast of hawks from this place.

<sup>5</sup> See the original Welsh in the Myvyrian Archæology, III. 366. and Wootton's Cyvreithiau Hywel Dda. 24.

**Lanius collurio.** Red backed shrike. Cigydd.  
cevngoch.

**Corvus Corax.** Raven. Cigvran.

This bird breeds in the rocks of Llandudno, Rhiwledn, and Conwy town mountain.

**Corvus graculus.** Chough. Bran big coch.

These birds are rather numerous in this neighbourhood, and they breed in all the rocks.

**Turdus torquatus.** Ring ouzel. Mwyalchen  
y graig.

There were six last spring observed near Bwlch mawr, and they breed in the neighbouring mountains.

**Cuculus canorus.** Cuckoo. Cog.

The following dates have been kept, of its first being heard on the banks of the Conwy. In 1824, April 21. 1825, April 22. 1826, April 21. 1827, April 26. 1828, April 29. 1831, April 21.

**Loscia curvirostra.** Cross-bill. Gylvingroes.

A few years ago, there were great numbers, which paid a short visit to this neighbourhood.

**Motacilla lusciniæ.** Nightingale. Eos.

Last summer, 1834, a strange bird, supposed to have been a nightingale, drew the attention of the town's people to Porth y velin, where its melodious notes were heard for several nights: as many, who heard it, feel convinced that they mistook not the song of the wood-lark for the nightingale; their surmise may be correct. In that case, this is the first instance of its having penetrated so far into the west of Wales.

**Motacilla atricapilla.** Black cap. Penddu.

This sweet little songster frequently makes its nest in the gardens within the town walls.

**Motacilla sylvia.** White throat. Barvawg.

This bird, which arrives with the black cap, is not uncommon in Benarth wood.

*Sylvia sylvicola.* Wood wren. Dryw y coed.

These wrens are numerous in Benarth wood. Both sexes are similar in plumage, and they may easily be known from the yellow wren by the greater brightness of their colours, and the greater distinctness of the line over the eye. The eggs are generally six in number, white with numerous rusty brown spots.

*Sylvia trochilus.* Yellow wren. Dryw yr helyg.

This bird is equally common in Benarth wood. The eggs are commonly six in number, and may be distinguished from those of the wood wren by the much lighter shade of the spots, and their not being so numerous.

*Motacilla ænanthe.* Wheat ear. Cynfonwen.

*Motacilla rubetra.* Whinchat. Clochdar yr eithin.

This bird comes within a mile of the town. I believe that it continues in the neighbourhood the whole year without migrating.

*Motacilla rubicola.* Stonechat. Tinwyn y garn.

The stonechat frequents the same places as the whinchat, it builds its nest about the end of March, which is difficult to be discovered, owing to the extreme wariness of the bird; for it always alights at a distance, and makes its approaches, by creeping cautiously along the ground. Its note is exactly similar to the clicking of two stones together, followed by a whistle: its other Welsh name, *clochdar y ceryg*, is very expressive.

*Hirundo rustica.* Swallow. Gwennol.

The following are dates of its first appearance in this neighbourhood. In 1825, April 21. 1828, April 13. 1830, April 18. 1831, April 14. 1832, April 21. 1833, April 13.

*Hirundo apus.* Swift. Gwennol y dwvr.

The castle and town walls furnish commodious nestling places for great numbers of these birds.

**Caprimulgus Europæus. Night-jar. Troellwr.**

It arrives in this neighbourhood about the end of May, and continues generally until the beginning of September. It is distinguished by a sort of continued buzzing, which has been aptly compared to the noise caused by a spinning wheel; hence its Welsh name from *troell*, a spinning wheel: it is also called *nyddwr*, the spinner, for the same reason.

**Charadrius hiaticula. Ring dotterel. Hutan.**

These birds come over in the spring, and they breed on the shore of Llandudno bay, and Conwy marsh; they make no nest, and the eggs, of a pale ash colour with black spots, are laid on the bare ground.

**Ardea major. Heron. Creyr glas.**

A pair occasionally build in Benarth wood; but there is a heronry at Pennant, in the parish of Eglwys vach, where they are numerous.

**Ardea comata. Squacco Heron. Creyr melyn.**

A specimen of this extremely rare bird was shot by Mr. Robert Williams of Furnace in July, 1828, near his house; he gave it to John Price, Esq. then of Bodnod, who liberally presented it to the British Museum, where it is now preserved. It measured one foot and ten inches in length; and two feet eleven inches in breadth. Length of the bill two and a half inches. Mandibles fine blue, with the fore part black. Lore greenish; irides yellow. Crown dusky and buff, in stripes. The long crest feathers white in the middle, with black edges; the two middle feathers reaching the back. The rest of the plumage rusty buff and white; back vinous; legs and toes yellow; tail short, cream-coloured. Middle claw pectinated on the inner edge, as in the night-jar.<sup>6</sup>

**Scolopax arquata. Curlew. Gylvinhir.**

These birds are very numerous in this neighbourhood, and they breed in the mountains above.

<sup>6</sup> For this, and several other notices of birds and plants, I am indebted to the kindness of my friend, John Price, Esq. M.A. St. John's College, Cambridge.

*Scolopax phæopus.* Whimbrel. Coegylvinhir.

This is not so common as the Curlew; it also breeds in the neighbouring mountains.

*Scolopax gallinago.* Snipe. Ysniten.

They breed in the high moors above Ro; the nest is generally placed in the long grass, or heather, near water.

*Scolopax gallinula.* Jacksnipe. Myniar leiav.

*Scolopax Calidris.* Redshank. Coesgoch.

*Tringa vanellus.* Lapwing. Cornchwiglen.

*Tringa hypoleucos.* Sandpiper. Pibydd.

*Tringa alpina.* Dunlin. Pibydd rhuddgoch.

*Tringa morinella.* Turnstone. Hutan y mor.

*Hæmatopus ostralegus.* Oyster catcher. Pioden y mor.

This birds breeds on Conwy marsh, laying its eggs on the shore among the small shingle, without any appearance of a nest; the eggs, generally three or four in number, are of a greenish grey colour, spotted with black; and rather larger than those of a hen.

*Alcedo ispida.* Kingfisher. Glas y dorlan.

Sometimes seen on the Gyffin river.

*Rallus aquaticus.* Water rail. Rhegen y gors.

*Gallinula Crex.* Land rail. Rhegen yr yd.

This bird is first heard in this neighbourhood generally the first week in May.

*Gallinula chloropus.* Water hen. Iar dwvr.

It breeds in the marshes of Creiddyn; and is not uncommon; although the common number of the eggs is six or seven, eight are frequently found in the nests. The eggs are nearly two inches long, yellowish white, thinly marked with rust-coloured spots.

*Fulica atra.* Bald coot. Cwtiar.

**Alca Torda. Razor bill. Llurs.**

This bird breeds in Llandudno and Rhiwleden rocks ; where, without any nest whatever, it deposits its single egg upon the bare rock. Their eggs are generally of a dirty white, with blotches of a pale rust colour, and both ends nearly of the same size ; in some, the blotches are rather darker than in others.

**Uria Troile. Guillemot. Gwylawg.**

They are very numerous in the rocks of Llandudno and Rhiwleden ; they deposit their single egg, like the razor bills, on the bare projecting ledges of the rock over the sea. The eggs do not vary much in size and shape, but there are seldom any two alike in colour ; some being of a whitish ground, others pale blue, or pale sea green, and all irregularly blotched and streaked with black. The rock eggs, which are chiefly those of the guillemots and razor bills, are a delicious food, and great quantities are annually gathered. The bold adventurer is let down by a rope, which is fastened about his middle, and planting his feet against the sides, and carefully shifting his hands, he gradually arrives at the haunts of the birds ; having filled the basket, which is slung on his shoulder, he ascends to the summit of the cliff with the assistance of his partner, who is stationed above. This is a dangerous employment, and there are several instances on record, where from the rope slipping, or other casualties, lives have been lost, and the mangled bodies buried in the sea. The eggs are generally sold at about half a crown a dozen. The birds return to the same haunts, but they are not nearly so numerous now, as they were formerly, owing to the incessant removal of their eggs. About thirty years ago, two men were killed, by being precipitated down the rock, which deterred the gatherers from their usual employment, for several seasons, and the birds increased in a short time to an immense number.

**U. Grylle. Black guillemot. Gwylawg ddu.**

This bird breeds on the west-side of Rhiwleden rock.

**Alca arctica. Puffin. Pâl.**

This beautiful bird frequents the neighbouring island of Priest-holm in great numbers, which is generally called Puffin island; they make their annual appearance in the beginning of April; the female makes no nest, but lays her single egg in the burrows, from which the rabbits have been ejected. The egg is white, about the size of that of a hen, but a little rounder. The males and females sit alternately, and are remarkable for the courage with which they defend their young. About the middle of August, they leave the island. A great number of the young birds are annually taken, and being enclosed in small casks, are pickled without the bones, and are esteemed a great delicacy.

**Sterna hirundo. Tern. Môr wennol.**

Not uncommon, in the summer months, along the river.

**Larus canus. Common gull. Gwylan.**

They breed in great numbers in the rocks of Llandudno and Rhiwledn. They make nests of sea weed and tang, and generally lay two eggs of a dark olive brown colour, with black and brown blotches.

**L. fuscus. Herring gull. Gwylan y penweig.**

This bird is similar in its habits to the last, and it breeds in the same places. It also makes its nest of sea weed and dry grass. While the common gull always lays two eggs, three are invariably found in the nest of the herring gull; they are very similar in colour, but the eggs of the common gull are much smaller in size, but longer in proportion, than those of this gull.

**L. tridactylus. Kittiwake. Gwylan benwen.**

The lower shelves of the rocks are occupied by the kittiwakes, where they make their nests of sea weed and tang, generally by the side of each other, without mingling with the other birds. The eggs are of a reddish white colour, with faint rusty spots; in shape they are much rounder than the eggs of the other gulls.

**L. marinus.** Black backed Gull. Gwylan ddu a gwyn.

They breed in the same rocks. The eggs are of a round shape, dark olive colour, thinly marked with dusky spots, and quite black at the thicker end.

**L. ridibundus.** Black headed Gull. Gwylan benddu.

**Anas cygnus.** Wild swan. Alarch gwyllt.

They visit this neighbourhood in a hard winter; and they have often been seen on the Avon ganol, below Llandrillo, before the late drainage. Their last visit there was in 1818, but they have been seen subsequently on the river Conwy.

**A. Anser ferus.** Wild goose. Gŵydd wyllt.

They frequently visit the river Conwy, and its neighbourhood.

**A. Erythropus.** Bernacle. Gwyran.

The last well authenticated visit of these birds was to the Avon ganol in 1812; where they came in great numbers: several were caught from the effect of famine.

**A. Nigra.** Scoter. Morhwyad ddu.

These may always be seen between Penmaen mawr and Gogarth. They seldom appear to leave the sea.

**A. Boschas.** Mallard. Adiad.

They breed in convenient places on the banks of the river; and before the building of Conwy bridge, every year in the island.

**A. Tadorna.** Sheldrake. Hwyað yr eithin.

Not uncommon up the river, where they breed.

**A. Penelope.** Wigeon. Chwiwell.

**A. Ferina.** Pochard. Hwyað bengoch.

**A. Glaucion.** Morillon. Hwyað dorchawg.

**A. Crecca.** Teal. Corhwyad.



Teal used to breed on the Avon ganol before the drainage, and that river was the resort of many hundreds of these, and other kinds of the duck tribe.

### **Pelecanus Carbo. Cormorant. Mulvran.**

They breed in the rocks of Llandudno and Rhiwleden; their nests consisting of sticks and sea weed, are commonly placed on the higher ledges, above the guillemots and gulls; the eggs generally three or four in number are white with a very slight tint of blue, coated with a chalky substance; they are longer than those of the domestic hen, but considerably less in circumference; they also have a strong fishy smell.

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## **PLANTS.**

As several botanists visit this neighbourhood in the summer months, the following list of the more uncommon plants, with some of their habitats, it is hoped, will be an useful guide:—

**Ligustrum vulgare.** Common privet.

Grows above the mines on Llandudno mountain.

**Veronica hybrida.** Welsh speedwell.

On the limestone rocks above Llandudno village, and near Gloddaith.

**Fedia dentata.** Corn-sallad.

On the rocks above Llandudno.

**Arundo avenaria.** Sea reed.

On the sandy coast near Llandudno.

**Elymus arenarius.** Sea lyme-grass.

In the same situations.

**Rubia peregrina.** Wild madder.

Near Gloddaith; on the sea coast near Llandudno, and at Gogarth; in great luxuriance by Porth uchav in Aberconwy: and in the lane between Marl and Llanrhos.

*Scabiosa succisa*. Devil's bit scabious.

Common at Llandudno.

*Sagina maritima*. Sea pearl-wort.

On the sandy sea coast in Llandudno bay.

*S. apetala*. Small flowered pearl-wort.

Near Llandudno common.

*Lithospermum officinale*. Grey millet.

On the rocks of Llandudno, and in thickets above the mines.

*L. maritimum*. Sea gromwell.

On the shore of Llandudno bay.

*Borago officinalis*. Common borage.

On the top of Llandudno rocks, and on Dyganwy warren.

*Asperugo procumbens*. German madwort.

On Llandudno rocks; at Llech, turning to the left.

*Convolvulus soldanella*. Sea bindweed.

On Dyganwy warren, and the sea coast near Llandudno; and abundantly on Conwy marsh.

*Viola hirta*. Hairy violet.

On the rocks of Llandudno.

*Erithræa littoralis*. Dwarf centaury.

On the coast near Llandudno.

*Samolus valerandi*. Water pimpernel.

At Llech in Llandudno, on the moist clay beds.

*Glaux maritima*. Sea milk-wort.

Common on the salt marshes by the river.

*Chenopodium bon.* Hen. Mercury goose-foot.

Among the ruins of Gogarth palace.

**Torilis anthriscus.** Upright hedge parsley.

Common in the hedges of this neighbourhood.

**Sison amomum.** Hedge hone-wort.

Near Eglwys Rhos.

**Meum faniculum.** Common fennel.

On the rock under Conwy castle, and all about Dyganwy.

**Statice reticulata.** Sea lavender.

On the sea beach of Llandudno, below Ty draw, near the place where the ore is deposited for the purpose of being weighed.

**S. armeria.** Sea gilliflower.

On Llandudno rocks.

**Allium vineale.** Crow garlick.

On the rocks of Llandudno.

**Scilla verna.** Vernal squill.

On the rocks above Llandudno village, and on Rhiwledn; and in the meadows near Gloddaith.

**Alisma plantago.** Greater water plantain.

In the ditches at Llandudno.

**Saxifraga cæspitosa.** Tufted saxifrage.

On Rhiwledn.

**S. tridactylites.** Rue-leaved saxifrage.

On Conwy churchyard walls.

**Dianthes caryophyllus.** Clove pink.

Plentiful on the town walls of Aberconwy.

**Dianthes deltoides.** Maiden pink.

On Dyganwy rocks.

**Silene nutans.** Nottingham catchfly.

At Gloddaith, on the rocks above Llandudno, and on Rhiwledn.

**Arenaria verna.** Vernal sandwort.

On the same rocks.

**Cotyledon umbilicus.** Common navelwort.

On the rocks, and on stone walls, at Llandudno.

**Sedum anglicum.** English stone crop.

On the rocks at Llandudno.

**S. dasyphyllum.** Thicleaved stonecrop.

On the walls near the church, and on the castle, of Conwy.

**S. forsterianum.** Welsh rock stonecrop.

On the rocks of Rhiwleden.

**Cerastium semidec.** Mouse-ear chickweed.

On the coast near Llandudno.

**Cerastium tetrandrum.** Four cleft ditto.

On the same coast.

**Cotoneaster vulgaris.** Downy-leaved medlar.

Abundantly on the limestone rocks of Llandudno, above the mines: which is the only habitat of this plant in these kingdoms. It was first observed by the late J. W. Griffith, Esq. of Garn, who found it in the year 1783; but although he gathered some specimens, he did not communicate his discovery. The merit of rediscovering, and adding it to the British Flora belongs to a very indefatigable and accurate botanist, W. Wilson, Esq. of Warrington, who found it within these few years. This same gentleman also first discovered the *Chara aspera* in Wales, and *Kobresia caricina* in Scotland.

**Pyrus aria.** White beam tree.

On the limestone rocks above Llandudno.

**Spiræa filipendula.** Dropwort.

Above the mines, and near the church of Llandudno.

**Rosa spinosissima.** Burnet rose.

In a very dwarf state on the coast of Llandudno bay, and it covers a great portion of the warren.

**Rosa forsteri.** Downy-ribbed dog-rose.

Near Llandudno.

**Potentilla verna.** Spring cinque-foil.

Near Gloddaith, and on the rocks of Rhiwleden, and Llandudno.

**Glaucium luteum.** Yellow horned poppy.

On the coast near Llandudno: and plentifully near Dyganwy.

**Papaver hybridum,** Rough-headed poppy.

Near Llandudno.

**Cistus marifolius.** Hoary dwarf cistus.

On Llandudno rocks; abundant above Ty draw, and at Gloddaith.

**C. helianthemum.** Common dwarf cistus.

Common on the rocks of Llandudno.

**Thalictrum minus.** Lesser meadow-rue.

On the coast near Llandudno; and also at Llech especially.

**Teucrium scorodania.** Wood sage.

Near Bodavon.

**Origanum vulgare.** Wild marjoram.

Among the ruins of Conwy castle.

**Thymus acinos.** Basil thyme.

On the rocks above Llandudno.

**T. calamintha.** Common calamint.

In the same situations.

**Scrophularia vernalis.** Yellow figwort.

In the lane near Gloddaith, and in Bodysgallen wood; also in Llanrhos lanes, and in Dinerth yard.

**Orobanche minor.** Lesser broomrape.

On the ruins of the castles of Conwy and Dyganwy, and on the ruins of Marl.

**Hutchinsia petræa.** Rock Hutchinsia.

Common on Llandudno mountain, above the mines.

**Cochlearia Danica.** Danish scurvy-grass.

Abundantly on the salt marshes by the river side.

**Cakile maritima.** Sea Rocket.

On Conwy marsh, in abundance.

**Crambe maritima.** Sea Kale.

On the sea shore, and on the rocks of Llandudno and Rhiwleden, and on the cliff by Gogarth.

**Cheiranthus Cheiri.** Wild wall-flower.

Abundant on the castle and town walls of Conwy, and on the rocks beneath.

**Arabis hispida.** Welsh rock-cress.

On Llandudno rocks.

**Brassica oleracea.** Sea cabbage.

Abundant on Rhiwleden, and at Llech; also, inland by Pen-rhyn isav.

**Geranium lucidum.** Shining crane's bill.

On walls near Rhiwleden.

**G. Sanguineum.** Bloody crane's bill.

On the coast between Llandudno and Aberconwy; at Gloddaith and Marl, and on Conwy marsh.

**Fumaria capreolata.** Ramping fumitory.

An uncommon variety, with white flowers, in the hedges near Rhiwleden.

**Lathyrus sylvestris.** Wild lathyrus.

In the hedges near Aberconwy.

**Hippocrepis comosa.** Horse-shoe vetch.

On Llandudno rocks.

**Cichorium Intybus.** Wild succory.

Near the village of Llandudno.

**Trifolium striatum.** Soft knotted trefoil.

On the coast near Dyganwy.

**Medicago maculata.** Spotted medick.

Near the ruins of Gogarth palace.

**Prenanthes muralis.** Wall lettuce.

On Marl rocks.

**Hypochæris maculata.** Spotted cat's ear.

On the rocks above Llandudno.

**Carduus tenuiflorus.** Grey thistle.

In the same situations.

**Chrysocoma linosyris.** Goldylocks.

On the rocks above Llandudno village.

**Conyza squarrosa.** Great fleabane.

On dry banks near the river.

**Senecio viscosus.** Stinking groundsel.

On the coast of Llandudno bay.

**Aster Tripolium.** Sea starwort.

On all the salt marshes.

**Inula dysenterica.** Common fleabane.

On the road from Bodavon to the shore.

**Orchis pyramidalis.** Pyramidal orchis.

In Gloddaith wood.

**Listera ovata.** Tway-blade.

In Bodavon meadows.

**Epipactis latifolia.** Helleborine.

Near Llandudno.

**Juniperus communis.** Juniper.

Formerly abundant on the Creiddyn mountains; there is some remaining on Pydaw above Pabo; and also on the top of Bryn euryrn.

## APPENDIX.

### No. I.

*The Original Charter granted to the Abbey of Aberconwy, by  
Llywelyn ap Iorwerth, Prince of North Wales.*

(From Dugdale's Monasticon.)

ABERCONWEYENSIS ABBATIA IN AGRO CARNARVONENSI,  
FUNDATA ANNO MCXCVIII.

NOTUM sit omnibus sanctæ matris ecclesiæ filiis, tam presentibus, quam futuris, quod ego *Lewelinus Gervasii* filius, totius *Norwalliæ* Princeps, intuitu divine pietatis, pro salute animæ meæ & animarum omnium antecessorum & hæredum ac successorum meorum dedi & concessi, atque presenti Carta mea confirmavi pro me & hæredibus ac successoribus meis, in puram & perpetuam eleemosinam imperpetuum Deo & Sanctæ Mariæ & monachis de *Aberconwy*, sub regulari habitu Deo servituri, locum ipsum in quo idem monasterium fundatum est, per hos scilicet terminos. Ascendendo de flumine *Conwy* usque ad *Abergeffyn*, deinde totum fluvium *Geffeyn* usque ad quoddam claud juxta *Gweridros*, hinc divertendo ad dextram per illud claud lapidibus signatum usque ad rivulum *Perkey*, hinc ascendendo per illum rivulum usque ad quoddam claud juxta *Coetmaur*, hinc per illud claud usque ad quandam rupem propè hinc per altitudinem collium petrosarum usque ad os *Christiani*, hinc descendendo usque ad mare & deinde per flumen *Conwy*, usque ad *Abergeffyn*: Dedi etiam & concessi atque confirmavi



eisdem Monachis has terras apud *Creudyn*, per hos videlicet terminos. Ascendendo de *Conwy* usque ad quendam fonticulum existentem in extrema parte terræ arabilis monachorum apud *Hemiron*; Hinc per superiorem partem terræ ab eisdem cultæ usque ad lapides grandes existentes in *Erw-voruran*, inde usque ad communem viam, hinc per ductum viæ usque ad claud supra *Erwedus*, hinc usque ad caput *Carrec-Wyber*, hinc per superiorem partem *Ryuoryn*, & terræ arabilis Monachorum usque ad extremam partem *Gwernegof*, hinc per alveum desubtus *Gwernegof* usque ad terram *Crocuryn*; hinc per lapides in termino constitutos usque ad rivulum juxta *Eglwys-Ros*, hinc per ductum rivuli usque ad alveum qui est in extrema parte prati monachorum subtus *Crocuryn*, hinc per ductum alvei usque ad decensum rivuli qui est inter *Bodesgallen* & *Brongoch*, & descendit in dictum alveum. Hinc usque ad fontem quendam, hinc per rupem proximam desuper pendentem usque ad lapidem quem vocant quadratum, hinc usque ad rupem in qua est fovea, hinc usque ad *Carrecereu*, hinc usque ad secundam rupem ultra *Carrecwalth*, hinc per superiorem partem terræ cultæ monachorum usque ad claud inter *Trefwarth* & *Callaurwerth*, & sic per ductum illius claud usque ad paludem subtus, hinc per extremam partem terræ arabilis monachorum usque ad nemus *Eardur* filii *Kendelu*, hinc per claud usque ad caput illius claud. Inde per ripam paludis inter terram arabilem & paludem usque ad *Argaevelin*, hinc per ductum aquæ usque ad *Conwy*. Concessi eciam eisdem monachis totam aquam *Conwy* & ejusdem aquæ transitum atque piscariam de *Abergeffyn* usque *Aberconwy*. Concessi insuper & confirmavi eisdem monachis *Frywlwyd* per hos scilicet terminos. Ascendendo de mari per medium cujusdam fossæ in terminum factæ usque ad fluvium *Karrocc*, hinc per medium *Karrocc* usque ad rivulum *Chwilogen*, hinc per medium *Chwilogen* usque *Blaen-chwilogen*, hinc ascendendo per paludem usque *Pwllberwr*, hinc per alveum paludis usque *Gwernebleideu*, hinc per medium *Gwernebleideu* usque *Wennbanc*, hinc per medium *Wennbanc* descendendo per quendam

rivulum fluentem per quendam valliculum usque ad fluvium *Dwynech*, & sic descendendo totam aquam *Dwynech* & molendinum atque piscariam totaliter & integre usque ad fluvium *Dwynaur*, deinde per medium aquæ *Dwynaur*, cum medietate piscarie, usque ad mare, & abhinc per litus usque ad fossam supradictam.

Concessi eciam & confirmavi eisdem monachis *Kwin* per hos videlicet terminos. Ascendendo de *Hensarngrwin* juxta *Pentyrth* per quendam alveum usque ad fluvium *Keiloc*. Hinc per medium *Keiloc* usque ad quendam rivum fluentem de *Sichnanc*, hinc per illum rivum usque ad *claud-seri*, hinc descendendo per aquam fluentem de *claud-seri* usque *Blaen* rivi *Efelanc*, hinc per medium rivi *Efelanc* usque *Rytfelanc*. Hinc ascendendo per quendam alveum usque *Rytnerthvoessen*, hinc per extremum alveum ultra *Bryn-brych* & *Enys-las* usque ad fluvium *Karrocc*, & abhinc descendendo per quendam alveum usque *Hensarngrwin*. Dedi eciam & confirmavi eisdem *Redenocuelen*, per hos videlicet terminos; ab illo loco quo fluvius *Karrocc* fuit juxta quendam fontem existentem prope *Llanwnda* usque ad quendam alveum qui est inter *Gefenys-vechan* & *Enys-Keubren* versus *Gerthic*, hinc divertendo ad dexteram per quendam alveum ultra *Enys-Keubren* usque *Werndofyn*, hinc per medium *Werndofyn* descendendo usque ad fluvium *Gwyleyt*, hinc per medium *Gwyleit* usque *Aberkarroc* juxta *Morua-Duillen*, & sic ascendendo per medium aquæ *Karrocc* versus *Llanwnda* usque ad dictum locum juxta prædictum fontem. Concessi eciam & confirmavi eisdem *Nankall* per hos scilicet terminos. Ascendendo de *Aberkall* per fluvium *Kall* usque *Brieth-du*, hinc usque ad altitudinem *Llwythmaur*, hinc ad cacumen montis *Llwythmaur* usque *Blaengwennyd Gwyneon*. Hinc usque *Blaen-Meyc*, hinc descendendo per medium *Meyc* usque *Dwynech*; & ab hinc per aquam *Dwynech* usque *Aberkall*. Concessi insuper eisdem & confirmavi *Kellhineoc*, per hos scilicet terminos. Ascendendo de *Meney* per fluvium *Breint* usque *Aber-Pwllwyrran*, hinc per medium aquæ

*Pulleyrran* usque *Sarnigerd*, hinc per quoddam claud lapidibus signatum usque ad quoddam stagnum juxta *Trefarth*, hinc per medium illius stagni usque *Clauderadwy*, hinc per illud *claud* usque ad litus, hinc directè usque ad alveum *Meney*, & sic per medium aquæ *Meney* usque *Aber-Breint*. Concessi eciam & confirmavi eisdem molendinum de *Talebont* cum pertinentiis; aquam quoque & fossam de *Sarn y Velyn* usque *Carreg-Elgar*, atque viam communem omni tempore de *Kellhineoc* usque ad molendinum prædictum sine impedimento cujuscunque. Dedi eciam & confirmavi eisdem *Bodgedwyd*, per hos videlicet terminos. Ascendendo de quadam parva insula existente in *Llyn-coron* per medium *claudyago* usque *Carned-Yorwerth*. Hinc divertendo versus *Aberfraw* per quoddam claud lapidibus signatum usque *Wenn-wenn*. Hinc per claud quoddam lapidibus signatum usque *Murdynen-hefnert*. Hinc directè versus *Henllys* usque *Korsenllys*. Hinc divertendo ad dexteram per medium alvei usque *Rytdu*. Hinc per medium illius alvei usque *Abergoner garanen*, prout descendit in *Korscallellyn*. Hinc ascendendo per *Gonergaranen* juxta quoddam claud lapidibus signatum usque *Wenn-las*. Hinc per medium *Wen-las* usque *Wenn-vaur*. Hinc ascendendo per alveum usque *Fynnon-y-meyirch*. Hinc per quoddam claud lapidibus signatum usque ad latus *Bodwrdyn*. Hinc per ductum lapidum usque *Cerric-poethion*. Hinc per quoddam claud divertens versus *Trefdraeth* usque ad latus *Trefdraeth*. Hinc per medium alvei existentis in confinio *Trefdraeth* per medium *Korsygirvan* usque *Pylleu-Haloc*, & ab hinc per alveum usque ad prædictam insulam. Dedi eciam & confirmavi eisdem plateam de *Lamnaes* per terminos suos cum omnibus pertinentiis suis.

Concessi insuper & confirmavi eisdem monachis *Voelas-Keirnauc* & *Llanveir-Ryt-castell*, per hos videlicet terminos. Ascendendo de *Abergwrysganc* per fluvium *Gwrysganc* usque ad quoddam latum vadum in *Blaengwrysganc*. Hinc per alveum usque *Maenesartyr*. Hinc usque *Cerric-Llwynogod*. Hinc usque *Carnedrun*. Hinc us-

que ad fontem subtus *Moel-seissauc*. Hinc usque ad summitatem *Moel-seissauc*. Hinc usque *blaen gwenn eneas*. Hinc descendendo per alveum usque *Henrytbeli*. Hinc per fluvium *Kaletwyn* usque *Blaen Kaletwyn* subtus *Kors-garanen*. Hinc directè ducta linea usque *Esgynvaen-gwgann*. Hinc usque *Llyn-alwen*. Hinc per medium *Llyn-alwen* & medium flui *Alwen* usque *Rydgwynn*. Hinc per *Nant-heilynsets* usque ad quandam valliculam divertentem ad sinistram, & per illam valliculam ascendendo usque ad capud cujusdam alvei profundi subtus *Brondengyallwyn*. Hinc relinquendo *Brondengyn-llwyn* ad dexteram intra terminos monachorum per vallem usque *blaen-Llaethauc*. Hinc per medium *Llaethauc* usque ad fluvium *Nuc*. Hinc per medium *Nuc* usque ad fluvium *Conwy* & per medium aque *Conwy* usque ad *Aber-gwriscanc*.

Concessi etiam & confirmavi eisdem *Llynkemer*, per hos scilicet terminos; ascendendo per *Llynkemer* per fluvium *Alwen* usque *Aber Drywes*. Hinc per medium aque *Drywes* usque *Bonereliebras*. Hinc usque *Nant Ringhylleyt*. Hinc ad fluvium *Breint* & per medium *Breint* usque *Llynkemer*. Concessi etiam & confirmavi eisdem *Llethwed-krynnllwyn* per hos scilicet terminos, a *Pwlle* propinquiore *Taldinas-Dindunant* contra *Alwen* usque ad locum ubi rivulus descendit in *Alwen* de *bwlchdinewyt*. Inde contra eundem rivulum usque *Bwlchdinewyt*. Inde per discensum rivuli ex alia parte montis versus *Kerricedrudeon* usque ad *Enyserheid*. Hinc a superiori parte ejusdem *Enys* per paludem usque ad rivulum ulteriorem fluentem de quondam fonte. Inde per longitudinem cujusdam valliculæ usque ad caput magnæ paludis versus orientem. Hinc per longitudinem illius paludis usque ad rivulum decurrentem de fonte ulteriori versus orientem è regione *Alwen*, & ab eodem fonte usque ad claud inferius subtus viam. Inde per longitudinem illius claud ad *Helichwynen* apud *blaen-nant* quod descendit versus *Alwen*. Inde usque ad *Kerricllwydeon* versus aquilonem in supercilio cujusdam collis. Hinc usque super *blaen* vallis qui descendit

versus *dinas dundunant*. Hinc per ejusdam vallis longitudinem usque ad supradictum *Pwlle* juxta *Tal* ipsius *dinas*.

Concessi insuper & confirmavi eisdem monachis has terras apud *Nanhosnem*, scilicet *gwaseat onnos Bryngwynem*, *Hafat*, *Tandrec*, *Llyndu*, *Chwmygoret*, *Scubordynemreis*, *Hendrefwynlein*, *Wernosdet*, *Pennant*, *Morgenen*, *Pennant crwnn* cum *Llem* ex utraque parte *Llem*, *Chwmerth* ex utraque parte *Erth*, *Chwmdelif* ex utraque parte *delif*, *kemen trinemt*, & *gwryt*, *kei* ex utraque parte *Degymm*, per videlicet terminos subscriptos. Ascendendo de *Abercolwyn* prout descendit in *ferlas* per medium *Colwyn* usque *blaencolwyn* prout descendit de *bwllch chwmllem*. Hinc per crepidinem rupium usque ad caput *Wedduavaur*. Hinc usque ad capud *Grybgoch*. Hinc usque ad capud *Wregyssant*. Hinc per altitudinem rupium usque ad sedem *peris*. Hinc usque ad capud *Moel-berned*. Hinc directè usque ad illum locum in quo fluvius *Member* incipit sicut torrens precipitanter descendere. Hinc per medium aque *Member* usque *Eranongoch*. Hinc ascendendo per illam aquam usque *Llegat-Erych*. Hinc usque ad altitudinem *Cerrie-eryyleh*. Hinc usque *Lleth-edcar*. Hinc usque *bankarw*. Hinc per cacumen rupium *Bancaru* usque *bleau-teyrw*. Hinc per fluvium *Teyru* usque ad petram quæ descendit in *Teyru* juxta *Ryt Teyru* superiorem. Hinc per parvos colles petrosos a latere *Gerrynt* usque *Llethwedgwelbau*. Hinc ducta linea indirectè usque ad monticulum qui in similitudinem castelli apparet a dextera parte *Llethwedgwelbau*. Hinc per altitudinem usque ad capud *carrecereryr*. Hinc per summitatem rupium usque ad *Gorssed Ressygynt* prout pendet desuper vallem. Hinc divertendo versus *Llyndinas* per longitudinem cujusdam brachii petrosi desuper vallem apparentis usque ad capud *claud mein*. Hinc per medium illius *claud* usque ad fluvium *ferlas*, & deinde per medium *ferlas* usque ad *Abercolwyn* prout descendit in *Llynekemer*. Dedi etiam & confirmavi eisdem monachis *Arden* & *Darlas*, per hos scilicet terminos; ascendendo de *Aberpwllendarlas*

per medium aque usque ad stagnum *Cawleyd*. Hinc per medium illius stagni usque ad paludem quæ est supra capud stagni & per illam directè paludem usque ad *Vygynforthant*. Hinc per altitudinem rupium usque ad capud *Llithretewrath*. Hinc per altitudinem illius montis versus occidentem usque *Bwlcherylbarthant*. Hinc descendendo per illam vallem, & per illum rivulum descendantem per illam vallem qui dicitur *frwt-du* qui est directè subtus *Carregwennolyod* & descendit in fluvium *Egygen*, & per fluvium *Egygen* usque ad stagnum *Egygen* & per illud stagnum & per fluvium descendantem de stagno usque ad flumen *Conwy* & per medium *Conwy* usque ad *Aberpwlledarlas*.

Concessi insuper eisdem monachis quod liberi sint imperpetuum & quieti ab omnibus pastibus & poturis hominum equorum, canum, & avium, & non compellantur ad pascendum me aut ministros meos aut alios quoscunque seculares sub obtentu consuetudinis, & quod circa electiones depositiones seu resignationes abbatum tempore vacationis aut alio tempore ego nullatenus intromittam, seu ministri mei aut alii seculares minime intromittant; set omnia in dicto monasterio facienda per religiosos ordinentur regulariter & tractentur. Concessi eciam eisdem ut uti & gaudere possint naufragio in omnibus terris suis & litoribus meliori modo quo in terris meis ego utor, videlicet quecumq; bona seu res per submersionem aut fractionem seu per aliud infortunium ad terras suas seu ad litora terris suis conjuncta de mari evenerint, ipsa bona totaliter & integre sint ipsorum monachorum similiter si naves aut scaphæ aut bona ipsorum monachorum infra dominium meum per procellam maris aut naufragium aut per aliud infortunium fracta aut submersa fuerint, ipsa vasa & bona sint ipsorum monachorum. Concessi eciam eisdem monachis quod ipsi & omnes servientes sui cum omnibus bonis suis quieti sint ab omni theoloneo, passagio, paagio, & pontagio in omnibus terris meis. Et quod ipsi & omnes servientes sui ac omnia bona sua liberè sine quocunque precio paratum transitum ha-

beant per *Meney, Conwy, Abermaw & Dyui*, & in omnibus passagiis per omnem potestatem meam non obstante quacunque lege aut consuetudine. Concessi eciam eisdem quod si animalia sua aut alia quacunque bona furata rapta seu ablata vel ad tempus perdita fuerint, tam cito iidem monachi illa bona probaverint esse sua ipsis sine dilatione pacificè liberentur. Similiter prohibeo ne aliqua persona secularis aut religiosa de dominio meo preter dictos monachos utatur illo signo ferreo quo ipsi signare solent animalia sua & iumenta, & si animalia quarumcumque inventa fuerint signo ipso signata ipsi monachis liberentur. Concessi insuper eisdem monachis imperpetuum quod pro quacunque causa dicto aut facto seu forisfacto in curiis meis aut in quacunque curia laicali nullatenus judicentur amercientur seu puniantur, set in capitulis suis secundum ordinem suum corrigantur. Concessi etiam eisdem monachis ut nullus hominum extorqueat ab eis vicinitatem aut partem de pasturis silvis aut molendinis suis, set ipsi monachi contra omnes custodiant & possideant fines & terminos suos in hac carta contentos, & intra eosdem terminos araturas, ædificia, culturas, & alios quoscunque labores pro libito suo faciant sine contradictione cujuscunque. Concessi eciam eisdem monachis quod nullus hominum possit super ipsos calumpniam seu actionem facere propter receptionem aliquarum personarum ad habitum suum cujuscunque conditionis sint, postquam ipsi recepti in dicto monasterio profiteantur; set si qui tales personas ad religionem de seculo fugientes super aliquibus calumpniaverint, durante anno probationis, & non post professionem factam actionem suam ostendant. Concessi etiam eisdem monachis ut si qui professorum dicti monasterii sine licentia & consensu abbatis sui pecuniam aut alia bona a creditoribus incaute mutuo acceperint aut secularibus fidejussionibus se immiscuerint, monasterium prædictum pro talibus mutuis & fidejussionibus minimè satisfaciatur. Concessi insuper eisdem quod licitè possint super aquas currentes inter terras meas seu hominum meorum ex una parte & terras ipsorum ex altera levare & ædificare molendina, & etiam easdem aquas

de canalibus suis ad terras suas vertere & declinare sine impedimento cujuscumque. Conceasi eciam eisdem quod licite possint recipere ad habitum suum & ad famulatum suum & servicia liberos meos spadarios & homines de advocatione mea, atque omnes primam tonsuram habentes cujuscumque conditionis extiterint, sine molestia & calumpnia cujuscumque. Et quia pium est ut omnibus, qui seculi vanitates & mundanas divitias derelinquant & ad regis regum obsequia voluntarie convertuntur, principum assint presidium & tutela, volo pro me & hæredibus ac successoribus meis quod iidem monachi tam præsentés quam futuri habeant & possideant omnes terras prædictas per limites & fines ac terminos prænominatos. In silvis & campis, cultis & incultis, pratis, pascuis, pasturis, piscariis, stagnis, vivariis, aquis, molendinis, viis, semitis, moris, glebariis, lapidibus, metallis, avibus, omniumque avium nidis, litoribus, portubus, naufragiis, thesauris, omnibusque rebus tam super terras suas quam sub terris suis inventis, benè & in pace, liberè quietè integrè, plenariè honorificè, firmiter & inconcussè in liberam puram & perpetuam elemosinam imperpetuum, solutas & liberas ab omni terreno servicio & exactione seculari. Volo eciam ut iidem monachi tam præsentés quam futuri omnibus prædictis libertatibus quietantiis & aliis liberis consuetudinibus per omnes terras meas & per totum principitatum meum imperpetuum gaudeant & utantur; Et prohibeo sub periculo indignationis meæ ut nullus hominum eisdem monachis aut servientibus suis contra hanc cartam meam prejudicium faciat aut gravamen. Quoniam ipsos & omnes res ac possessiones suas sub protectione mea suscepi. Et ut hæc mea donatio atque confirmatio imperpetuum firma & inconcussa permaneat, ne aliqua contentionis aut perturbationis occasio contra prædictos monachos possit imposterum suboriri, eam præsentí cartæ munimine & sigilli mei impressione roboravi. Testibus hiis *Yorwerthgam, gwynn* filio *Ednewein-ydon* capellano meo, & *Madoce* filio *Cadur*. Dat. apud *Aberconwy* anno ab incarnatione Domini millesimo centesimo nonagesimo octavo, septimo idus Januarii, & principatus mei anno decimo.



## No. II.

*Respecting the Translation of the Abbey to Maenan.*

Rex archiepiscopis, &c. salutem. Sciatis nos pro salute animæ nostræ & animarum antecessorum & hæredum nostrorum dedisse concessisse & hac carta nostra confirmasse dilectis nobis in Christo abbati & conventui de *Aberconewey* quorum situm transferri volumus usque *Maynan*, de assensu eorundem abbatis & conventus & coabbatum suorum ordinis *Cisterciensis* per quos locum illum fecimus visitari, quod totam ecclesiam de *Aberconewey* quam prius conventualem habuerunt & tenuerunt de cætero habeant & teneant quantum in nobis est in proprios usus parochialem cum omni jure patronatus & proprietatis sibi & successoribus suis, & in puram & perpetuam elemosinam cum omnibus juribus possessionibus & rebus aliis ad prædictam ecclesiam parochialem spectantibus quocunque nomine censeantur infra muros quam extra, cum omnibus decimationibus omnium terrarum & maris ex utraque parte de *Conewey* ad præfatam ecclesiam de *Aberconewey* spectantium ab antiquo. Ita tamen quod eidem ecclesiæ deservire faciant per duos capellanos anglicos & idoneos, & honestos, quorum unus sit perpetuus vicarius in eadem, & per ipsos abbatem & conventum in singulis vocationibus ipsius vicariæ loci diocesano præsentetur, & per unum tertium capellanum *Walensem* honestum, propter idiomatis diversitatem. Quare volumus, &c. Dat. per manum nostram, apud *Karnarvan*, xvj. die Julii.

Et memorandum quod hæc carta irrotulatur in rotulo Walliæ de hoc anno.

## No. III.

*Respecting the same.*

**Rex** archiepiscopis, &c. salutem: Sciatis quod in recompensationem situs quondam abbacie de *Abercōnewey* & terrarum adjacentium, & grangie de *Creuthyn* cum pertinentiis ad eandem abbaciam tunc spectantium, quas abbas & conventus loci ejusdem in manus nostras reddiderunt, dedimus & concessimus & hac carta nostra confirmavimus prædictis abbati & conventui ordinis *Cisterciensis*, quorum monasterium postmodum de novo apud *Maynan* in honore omnipotentis Dei, & beatæ *Mariæ* & omnium Sanctorum, pro salute animæ nostræ & animarum omnium antecessorum & hæredum seu aliorum nostrorum successorum fundavimus, prædictam villam de *Maynan* cum pertinentiis, quam una cum quibusdam aliis terris *Henrico* de *Lacy* comiti *Lincolniæ* & hæredibus suis & quam idem comes postmodum quietam de se & hæredibus suis in manus nostras reddidit. Et etiam centum decem & septem solidatas, & octo denaratas terræ quas *Mereducus Grath*, & *Gorgonen* frater ejus, & quindecim solidatas terræ quas *Tuderius* ab *Karwet* tenuerunt in eadem villa de *Maynan* & quas in manus nostras quiete similiter reddiderunt. Habendas & tenendas præfatis abbati & conventui & eorum successoribus in eodem monasterio Deo & beatæ *Mariæ* servituri, cum omnibus suis pertinentiis, in liberam puram & perpetuam elemosinam inperpetuum. Concessimus eisdem abbati & conventui & confirmavimus omnes rationabiles donationes terrarum ecclesiarum hominum & elemosinarum eis a quibuscunque jam collatas & imposterum conferendas vel acquirendas. Quare volumus &c. quod prædicti abbas & monachi & eorum successores habeant & teneant villam terras & redditus prædictos cum omnibus libertatibus & liberis consuetudinibus ad eos spectantibus ut in boscis pratis &c. per metas & bundas subscriptas; videlicet ascendendo de *Conewey* versus montes de

*Abercamwl*; ubi descendit fluvius qui appellatur *Cynnogan* in flumine de *Conewey*; & sic ascendendo per illum fluvium de *Cynnogan* usque ad fontem de *Tangwre*; & de fonte illo per viam magnam directe usque ad *Rytyllwydieirche*; & exinde per rivulum parvum usque ad fluvium de *Gwydenging*; & sic ascendendo per illum fluvium usque ad rivulum parvum qui descendit de *Dewlwyn* & deinde usque *Graflwyn-chrydauc*; & sic directe usque *Pwll* in medio *Gwenn-Benarwann*; & deinde usque *Pwll* in medio *Ywemud Bycheyn* & sic usque *Arnon yr Heol*, deinde usque moram *Yhaehirth*; deinde usque *Clawd* juxta domos fabrorum; deinde usque ad capud *Erw Yranallen*; exinde usque flumen *Erethlin*; deinde usque *Gwen-Bowys*; & sic juxta latus *Gwenn-Bowys* usque *Pwll-Budyr* & exinde usque *Nant-jwrach*; & deinde descendendo usque ad moram quæ dicitur *Gwen-nyce*; & deinde usque *Y bwllch-coeh*, deinde usque ad moram quæ est inter *Gwernnelane*, & *Garthgynannel*; & inde usque ad aquam quæ appellatur *Ballenllethauc*, & sic per illam aquam usque longum vadum, deinde usque ad moram quæ appellatur *Gwernnvaenan* & sic per quendam rivulum usque *Pwll-ydon*, & per aquam *Pwll-ydon*, usque *Conewey*; & sic per filum aque *Conewey* usque ad *Aberycambull*. Et quod habeant omnes rationabiles donationes terrarum ecclesiarum hominum & elemosinarum eis à quibuscumque jam collatas & impo- posterum conferendas vel acquirendas bene & in pace libere, quiete, integre, plenarie, & honorifice, cum *sok* & *eak*, *tol* & *theam*, *infangenethes*, & *utfangenethes*, *hamesoek*, *gridbrich*, *bolwyk*, *fichwyek*, *Ferwyek*, *kengwyek*, *leirwyek*, *flemmesfirid*, *murdro*, *latrocinio*, *forstal*, *hordel*, & *horest* infra tempus & extra tempus, & in omnibus locis & cum omnibus causis quæ sunt & esse possunt.

Concessimus etiam quod prædicti abbas & monachi quieti sint imperpetuum de omnibus misericordiis, & quod ipsi & omnes homines sui liberi sint & ab omni scoto & geldo & omnibus auxiliis regum vice-comitum & omnium ministerialium eorum & de hidagio, caru- cagio, *danegeld*, *hornegelde*, & exercitibus, scutagiis, tallagiis, les-

tagiis, stallagiis, siris, & assisis, & assartis, de vasto nemorum, de maeremio cariendo, de armis portandis, de thesauro portando, de chaciis, establiis, scotallis Regalibus, de purprestura, hundredis, wapentachiis, placitis & querelis warda & *wardepen*, *averpen*, *hundredespen*, *horthalpen*, *trythingpen*, & de operibus castellorum parcorum pontium, & de clausuris & omni carragio summagio navagio passagio muragio & domuum regalium edificatione & omni-moda operatione. Et prohibemus ne bosci eorum ad prædicta opera vel ad aliqua alia capiantur, & similiter ne blada illorum vel hominum suorum ad castella munienda capiantur.

Concedimus etiam quod omnia tenementa eorum tam in bosco quam in plano sint deaforestata & extra omnem potestatem forestariorum. Præcipimus etiam quod prædicti abbas & monachi & homines sui liberi sint & quieti ab omni theolonio in omni foro & in omnibus mundinis & in omni transitu pontium viarum & maris per omnem potestatem nostram, & per omnes terras nostras in quibus eis libertatem dare possumus & omnia mercata sua & hominum suorum sint similiter in prædictis locis ab omni theolonio quieti; & quod naves eorundem abbatis & monachorum liberum transitum per omnem potestatem nostram habeant absque omni exactione & consuetudine.

Concedimus etiam & confirmavimus eisdem abbati & monachis, quod si aliquis hominum suorum pro delicto suo vitam vel membra debeat amittere vel fugerit & iudicio stare noluerit vel aliud delictum fecerit pro quo catalla sua debeat perdere, ipsa catalla sint prædictorum abbatis & monachorum. Similiter si aliquis hominum suorum sit amerciatus erga nos vel ballivos nostros pro quacunque causa vel delicto seu forisfacto amerciamenta prædicta dictis abbati & monachis reddantur, servata regie potestati justitia mortis & membrorum. Hæc omnia prædicta & omnes alias quietancias libertates & liberas consuetudines quæ in hoc scripto non comprehendun-

tar & liberiores alicui domui religiosæ conferri possunt, concedimus prædictis abbati & monachis pro Dei amore & gloriosæ virginis *Maria* & pro salute animæ nostræ & omnium antecessorum & hæredum nostrorum, in liberam puram & perpetuam elemosinam imperpetuum. Et prohibemus super forisfacturam nostram quod nullus eisdem abbati & monachis vel hominibus suis contra hanc cartam nostram forisfaciat sub pœna viginti librarum, quia ipsos & omnes res & possessiones suas & hominum suorum in custodiam & protectionem nostram recepimus. Et prohibemus ne iidem abbas & monachi ponantur in placitum de aliquo tenemento suo nisi coram nobismet ipsis vel hæredibus nostris. Hiis testibus venerabili patre *Roberto Bathonensi & Wellensi* episcopo cancellario nostro, &c. Dat. per manum nostram, Apud *Kaernarvan* xxiij die Octobris.

## No. IV.

*The Bull of Pope Nicholas for the Translation of the Abbey.*

(From Steven's Additions to Dugdale's Monasticon. *Appendix*, 301.)

NICHOLAUS Episcopus servus servorum Dei, dilectis filiis abbati & conventui Monasterii de Aberconewete in Wallia, Cestertiensis Ordinis, Bangorensis Diocesis, salutem & Apostolicam benedictionem.

Ex parte carissimi in Christo filii nostri Edwardi Regis anglie illustris, fuit propositum coram nobis, quod felicitis recordationis Honorius Papa, Predecessor noster, ante consecrationem et Benedictionem suam intellecto, quod monasterium vestrum ob certas causas rationabiles, in loco, ubi tunc erat, non poterat commode remanere, Prefatus Predecessor, nondum benedictus et consecratus, ad devotam ipsius Regis supplicationis instantiam, transferendi prefatum monasterium de præmisso loco ad locum, in quo nunc situm esse dinoscitur, per litteras suas, bullatas bulla sua, quæ nomen

suum nondum exprimebat, vobis concessit liberam facultatem; sicque vos litterarum ipsarum auctoritate, sicut asseritis, de priori loco præfatum monasterium transtulistis.

Licet igitur quoad hujusmodi actum, seu gratiam, eædem litteræ, sic bullatæ, plenam, immo plenissimam in se habeant potestatem, maxime cum sedes Apostolica, ante consecrationem et benedictionem Electi in summum Pontificem, cum defectiva Bulla, Electi nomen nullatenus exprimente, bullare litteras suas consueverit ab antiquo;

Ut tamen de mentibus rudium error omnis totaliter evellatur, vestris et ipsius Regis devotis supplicationibus inclinati, quod per easdem litteras super hoc factum est ratum & firmum habentes, id prout tenemur, auctoritate apostolica approbamus, et presentis scripti patrocinio communimus.

Nihilominus declarantes, seu decernentes hujusmodi translationem dicti monasterii eandem vim, eundemque vigorem habere, ac si per litteras dicti Predecessoris, integra bulla bullata, alias tamen legitime facta esset.

Nulli ergo &c.

Dat. *Reatæ* 12 Kalendas Septembris, Pontificatus nostri anno secundo.

*Sub filis sericis flavi rubeique coloris.*

## No. V.

*The following Extracts are from the Taxation, ordered by Pope Nicholas in 1291. See Willis' St. Asaph and Bangor.*

## BONA ABBATIS DE CONWAY.

ABBAS habet Villam de Maynant, Reddit. cum molendinis et perquisitis, cum carrucis, *vjl. js. vijd.*

Item Hirhadocks, et Vaccariam de Trebedewe, *ijj carucatarum, cum aliis commoditatibus, ijl. vs.*

Item Grangiam de Karennock, Voylas, Demoetjerstn, Keneke-nea, Lewes, et Kylwen, *v carucatas, cum aliis commoditatibus, ijl. vs.*

Item Herligaret, Lauwoyr, et Henchesche, *ij carucatae cum pastura, jl. ivs. viijd.*

Exitus al.

Abbas habet *cvi Vaccas, Exitus vjl. vjs.*

Item habet *ccccclx Oves. Exitus viijl. vs.*

Item habet *xv Equas, Exitus xvs.*

Summa Bonorum Abbatis de Conwey *xxvj. ijs. ivd.*

*Bona Temporalia Abbatis de Conway, Assavens. Dioc. existentia in Diocesi Bangoriensi.*

Abbas habet Grangiam de Frithlwyd *duas carucatas terre cum commoditatibus, xxs.*

Item habet Grangiam de Triam *unam carucatam terre cum commoditatibus, xs.*

Item habet Grangiam de Nankall *unam carucatam terre cum commoditatibus, xs.*

Item habet Grangiam de Bodnant et Havailyn, *cum molendino fullonico et aliis commoditatibus, xxjs. viijd.*

Item habet Manerium de Corwyls tres carucatas terre, cum redditu, et molendino, et aliis commoditatibus, *xv*l*. xs.*

Item habet Grangiam de Kelliniok septem carucatas terre cum commoditatibus, *xij*l*.*

Item habet Grangiam de Bodgedwyadhes tres carucatas terre cum aliis commoditatibus, *xxx*s*.*

Item Abbas habet medietatem ville de Penmir unam carucatam terre cum redditu et molendino, *iv*l*. xs.*

Item habet Grangiam de Herdudwy unam carucatam terre, cum Nauthlyn, cum commoditatibus, *x*v*s.*

Summa, *xxxv*ij*l. v*j*s. vii*j*d.*

## NO. VI.

*The original Charter granted by Edward the first to the Burgesses of Aberconwy.*

(From the Editor's unpublished Manuscript.)

EDWARDUS DEI GRA' rex Angliæ Dñs Hiber' et Dux 'Acquitanie Archiep'is, Ep'is, Abb'ibus, prioribus, Comitibus, Baronibus, Justiciar', vic' pr'posit's, ministris, et omnibus Ballis, et fidelibus suis salutem. SCIATIS Qd volumus, et concedimus, p' nobis et hered' n'ris, qd villa n'ra de Aberconwey de ceter' Lib' Burgus sit, et hōies n'ri eiusdam ville lib'i sint Burgenses. ET qd Constabularius Castri n'ri de Aberconwey, qui p' temp'e fuerit, sit maior Burgi illius, iuratus tam nobis quā eisdam Burgens', qui, prius prestituto Sacramento de Juribus n'ris conservandis, eisdam Burgens' Juret sup' s'ca Dei Evangelia, Qd ip'e lib'tates eisdam Burgens' a nobis concessas conservabit, et faciet fideliter ea quæ ad officiū maioris p'tinent in eodam Burgo. CONCEDIM' eciam qd ip'e Burgens' sing'lis annis in festo S'ti Mich'is Arch'i duos Balli'os idoneos et sufficientes de semetip'is eligant, et d'co constabular' Tanquam Maiori suo presentent, qui in p'ncia d'cor' maioris et Burgens' Jurent, qd officiū Ball'ie sue fideliter facient et exequet'. VOLUM' ETIAM et



cōcedimus Qd d'ci Burgens' h'eant lib'am personā suā in Burgo p'r-d'cto de oībus transgressoribus ib'm, Exceptis casibus vite et membrorū, in quibus casibus o'es tā Burgens' quā alii imprisonent'r in castro n'ro ib'm. VERUNTAMEN si aliqui d'cor' Burgens' rectati, accusati, vel indicati fuerint sup' aliqua Transg', in huiusmodi casibus volumus qd ea occacōe imprisone'tur q'andiu bonā et sufficient' manucapcōem invenerint ad standū inde recto corā capitali iustic' n'ro, vel aliis Juisticiariis n'ris ad hoc deputat'. CONCEDIM' insuper eisdam Burgens' qd o'es terræ eisdam Burgo iā assignat' de warrenate & de afforeestate sint oīo, et qd Judei in eodam Burgo aliquibus temp'ibus nō morent'r. CONCEDIM' etiam pro nobis et hered' n'ris eisdam Burgens' lib'tat subscript' vz, qd nullus vic' nror' in aliquo se intromittat sup' eos de aliquo pl'it' vel querela, vel occacōe, vel aliqua re alia ad p'd'ctam villā p'tinent'. Salvis tamen nobis et hered' n'ris pl'it' corone n're sicut p'dictū est. Et qd ip'i h'eant gildam m'catoriā cū Hansa et aliis consuetudinibus et lib'tatibus ad gildam illam p'tinentibus. Ita qd nullus qui nō sit de gilda illa m'candisam aliquā faciat in eadam villa nisi de voluntate Burgens' p'dcorū. CONCEDIM' etiam eisdam Burgens' qd si aliquis natiuus alicuius in p'fata villa manserit, et terrā in eadam tenuerit, et fuerit in eadam gilda et Hansa et lotus et scotus cū eisdam hōibus n'ris per un' ann' et unu' Die' sine calumpnia deinceps nō possit repeti a dño suo sed in eadam villa liber p'maneat. PRETEREA CONCEDIM' eisdam Burgens' n'ris qd h'eant Socke et Sacke, Toll et Theam, et Infangentheff; Et qd quieti sint p' totam Terrā n'rā de Theolonio, Lestagio, passagio, muragio, pontagio, et stallagio, et de Lene Danegilde, et gaywite, et oībus aliis consuetudinibus, et exaccionibus, p' totā potestate' n'ram, tam in Anglia, q'am in oībus aliis terris n'ris, et qd ip'i vel eorū bona quocūq' locorum in terra vel potestate n'ra inventa, nō areste't'r p' aliquo debito, de quo fideiussores aut principales debitores nō extiterint, nisi forte ip'i debitores de eorū sint cōia et potestate h'entes unde de debit' suis in toto vel in p'te satisfacere possint, et d'ci Burgen' n'ri creditoribus

eorundam debitor, in Justicia defuerint, et de hoc rationabiliter constare possit. Et qd iidem BURGENSES n'ri pro transgressionē, seu forisf'c'ur' servienciū suorū, catalla et bona sua in manibus ip'orū invent' aut alicubi locorū per ipsos s'rvientes deposita, quatenus sua esse sufficienter p'bare poterunt, nō amittant. Et ETIAM qd si idam Burgens' aut eorum aliqui infra terrā et potestate' n'ram testati decesserint vel intestati, nos vel hered' n'ri bona ip'orum confiscari nō faciemus quin eor' hered' ea integre h'eant, Quatenus d'ca catalla d'corū defunctorū fuisse constiterit, dū tamen de d'cis hered' noticia aut fides sufficienter h'eant'. Et qd Burgens' nostri p'dc'i nō convincāt'r p' aliquos forinsecos sup' aliquibus appellis, rectis, iniuriis, transgressionibus, criminibus, calumniis, et demand' eis imposit' aut imponend' a Caern'von usq'e ad aquā de Cloid, sed sol'modo p' Burgens' n'ros p'dictos, nisi de aliqua re tangent' cōitatem Burgi p'd'c'i, et tunc in casu illo deducant'r sc'dm lib'tat' app'batas et hactenus rationabiliter usitatas in ciuitate n'ra Herfordie. QUARE VOLUM' et firmiter precipimus pro nobis et hered' n'ris, qd villa n'ra de Aberconwey de cetero liber Burgus sit, et hōies n'ri eiusdam ville lib'i sint Burgens', et qd Constabular' Castri n'ri p'd'ci de Aberconwey, qui p' tempore fuerit sit Maior Burgi illius, iuratus tam nobis quā eisdam Burgens' qui prius p'stito sacramento de iuribus n'ris conservand' eisdam Burgens' Juret sup' sc'a Dei Evangelia qd ip'e lib'tates eisdam Burgen' a nobis concessas conservabit, et faciet fideliter ea que ad officiū Maioris p'tinent in eodam Burgo. CONCEDIM' ETIAM qd ip'i n'ri Burgen' singulis a'nis in festo S'ti Mich'is Arch'i duos Balli'os idoneos et sufficientes de semetipsis eligant, et d'co Constabulario tamq'am Maiori suo presentet, qui in p'ntia p'dc'orū maioris et Burgen' jurent qd officiū Ballie sue fideliter facient et exequent'. VOLUM' ETIAM et concedim' qd d'ci Burgen' h'eant liberā Personā suā in Burgo p'cō de oībus transgressionibus ibide' exceptis casibus vite et membrorū in quibus casibus oēs tam Burgen' quam alii imprisone't'r in Castro nostro ibidem. VE-

RUNTAMEN si aliqui d'corū Burgen' rectati, accusati, vel indicati fuerint, sup' aliqua transgressione in huiusmodi casib' VOLUMUS qd ea occ'ōe imprisone't'r quādiu bonā et sufficientem manucaptione' invenerint ad standum inde recto corā capital' iusticiar' n'ro, vel aliis iusticiariis nr'is, ad hoc deputato. CONCEDIM' INSUP' eisdam Burgens' qd oēs terras eidam Burgo iam assignat' dewarrannate, et de afforestatione sint oīo, ET QD Judei in eod' Burgo aliquib' temp' nō morent'r. VOLUM' ETIAM et concedimus p' nobis et hered' n'ris qd p'd'ci Burgens' h'eant oēs alias lib'tates et lib'as consuetudines sup'ius expressas bene et pacifice absq' occ'ōne vel impedimento n'ri vel hered' nrorū Juisticiari' vicecomit' aut alior' Ballivor' seu ministror' nrorū quorūcūq' imp'petuū sicut p'dc'm est. HII TESTIBU' Venabl' pr'e R. Bathonien' et Wellen' Ep'o Cancellario n'ro, Ric'o de Burgo Com' Ultan' Thoma de Clare, Ric'o de Brus, Reginaldo de Grey, Nicōlao de segraue, Petro de Champnent, Joh'e de monte alto, et alijs. Dat' p' manū n'ram apud flint octavo die Septembris Anno Regni n'ri duodecimo.

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(The following Additions and Explanations are subjoined to the Charter in the Editor's Manuscript.)

*Hansa: hoc est primu' Custumu' vocat' hansa eo qd d'ns Rex Edward' prim' quondam Rex angl' p' Cartam sua' Concessit Burgens' Anglicis Ville de Conwey.*

VIDELIT' qd eritis Juisti fideles et veraces illustrissimo Dño Regi Edwardo et hered' suis princ' Wallie.

ERITIS Juisti et ver' in exercend' officiū Constabulariū et Maioris huius ville de Conwey Et qd nō manutenebitis neq' eustodietis Soldar' Wallensicos p' tempore v'ro existent' eodam officio.

ITAM manutenebitis cū oībus viribus corporū v'rorū atq' diuitiis v'ris libertates consuetudines clania et franchisesias hujus ville de Conwey.

**ITAM** eritis justī et veraces cōitatibus Burgens' istius ville et cū illis portabitis Scott Lott, pitch & pale watch & ward in oībus temporibus egestate et necessitate.

**ITAM** nō panificabitis neq' pandoxabitis in quodam loco vocat' le fferry.

**ITAM** nūq' eritis in voluntate assensu et consensu ad faciend' hōiem Wallens' neq' muliere' Wallens' nullatenus lib'at' ad occupand' vel fungend' lib'tat' huius ville carnes occidend' et scindendo pinendo vel pandoxand' neq' alia ulla occupacōe in grave dampnū et detrimentū p'd' comitat' Burgens'.

Et AD premissa oīa atq' singula fideliter servanda sup' Evangelia sc'a corporate p'stabitis Juramentū.

**SOCKE** hoc est Sexta a homagin' in Curia v'ra sc'dm consuetud Regni.

**SAKE** hoc est pl'it emend' de transgr' homag' in Curia v'ra, quia Sake An'ce Guchason et Socke d'r p'd' seor' tur'.

**THOLL'** hoc est qd vos et hōies v'ri de toto homagio sitis quiet' in oībus m'cat' et de Tholonio de rebus vend' et vendict'.

**THEM'** hoc est qd h'eat omem generacōem villanorū v'rorū et eorum sectis et catall' ubicūq' in Anglia invent' fuerint, Exept' qd si quis nativus quiet' p' unū Ann' et unū diem in aliqua villa p' velegiata manserit, Ita qd in Cōi gilda tanq'am unus eorū recept' fuerit a villenagio sit lib'atus.

**INFANGTHEF** hoc est qd latrones capt' in dīno vel in feodo v'ro et de latraciōe suo convit' fu'int in Curia v'ra adiudicent'r.

**ITAM** si aliquis in eadam villa vel feod Captus fu'it cū manuopere a Sectam alicuius p't' qui Sect' versus eū prosequi volu'int statim iidam Balli et Burgens' assignar' fec'int Diem p'fixam cur' seu teñd' vz infra triduū vel certo Die et sic idem appellatus coram eis arenabitur. Et si ponere volu'it Inquis admittet'r. Et si Juventus fu'it culpabilis indicabit'r et suspendet'r.

**OUTFANGTHEF** hoc est qd latrones de terra v'ra vel de feodo v'ro

extra terram vel feod' v'ram Cap'r cū latrocinio ad curiā  
v'ram ver'tentur et ibi iudicent'r.

THAM'SOKIN' hoc est quiet' et amerciament' p' ingressu hospic' vio-  
l'nt sine licentia et contra pacem dñi Regis et qd teñet pl'ta  
de huiusmodi transgressionibus in Cur' v'ra.

FRORSTALL' hoc est quiet' de Catall' Arrer' infra terra' v'ram vel  
extra et qd teneant inde pl'it' in Curia v'ra et h'eat' inde' am'  
c' p' neu'.

SCOTT hoc est qd erit' quiet' de quadam consuetudine sicut de Cōi  
Tallagio ad opus vic' h' ens Ball'.

GILDA hoc est quit' de consuetudine s'rville.

BENEDAFGELDE hoc est quit' de quadam consuetudine que curit in  
aliquo loco quā quondā le Danes leuauerunt in Anglia.

THEOLONIO hoc est quiet' de oībus Tolnet' in omnibus civitatibus et  
villis Anglie.

RESTAG hoc est quiet' de oībus pavement' in oībus Civita'bus et vil-  
lis Anglie.

PASSAG hoc est quiet' qd possunt lib'e transsir' & equiter' cū āiali-  
bus et m' cunon molun' ubiq'.

MURAG hoc est qd de denar' dand' ad muros civitat' vel villar'.

PONTAG hoc est quiet' de pontag Civitat' vel villar'.

GAYWITE hoc est quiet' de denariū dand' ad gwerras et qd custod-  
iant bene et pacifice terras suas p'tin' Burgo p'd'co.

ROTH hoc est qd quiet' de oībus stallagiis in Regno Anglie.

STALLAG hoc est quit' de oībus stallagiis in oībus Ciuit' et villis in  
Regno Anglie.

HAUSEY hac est quiet' de oībus Tallagiis in oībus locis Regni Anglie.

## No. VII.

(The following Extract is from the Extent of the County of Caernarvon, taken by John de Delves, in 1362. 26 Edward III. and it relates to the neighbourhood of Aberconwy.)

## COM. CAERN' VON.

## ISSAPH,

IN EXTENT 'Com' p'd' fact' coram Johen' Delves locum tenent' Ric' comit' arundell Justiciar' Dñi in Northwall' Die ven'is prox' ante ff'um nativitatis S'ci Joh'nis Bab'te, anno Regni R' Edwardi Tertii a Conqu' vicesimo sexto, inter al' continet' sic prout inferius.

## ERIANNUS,

IN EADAM villa sunt quinq' gavel native, vz. Gavell vocat' gavell wither, gavell vocat' gavell weithoit, gavell vocatur gavell Ronghagheit, gavell vocat' gavell Effeiriat, et gavell vocat' gavell loydenewe, et sunt hered' p'd' gavell vocat' gavell wither Blethin ap madwin et David ap moylwin et alii coh'edes sui et reddunt inde quol't termino p'd'cor' Quatuor terminor' ijs. ijd. S'ma p'ann' viijs. viijd. Et sunt heredes p'd' gavell de gavell withoit, Jeam ap Cad'et Blethin ap madwyn et alii coh'edes sui et reddunt inde quol't term' p'd' cor' quat' term' ijs. iiijd. S'ma p' ann' ixs. iiijd. Et sunt hered' pred'c'e gavell vocat' gavell Ronghagheit David ap Edeñ ap madd' ap teg et reddunt inde quol't termino p'd'cor' quatuor terminor' ijs. iiijd. Que suma p'ann' xiijs. jd. Et de p'd'ca gavell vocat' gavell Efferiat quidam Bleth' ap Rerit' tenet inde quartes p'tes et redd' inde quol't termino quatuor terminor' suprad' xvijd. Suma p' ann' vs. viijd. Et solvat inde quol't anno ad fñm S'ci Petri ad vincla ad opus manerii de aver ijd. ob. Et p' Kylgh stalon p'quatuor p'tib' gavell p'd'ce ijd. suma p'an' iiijd. ob. qr. Et p'd'ca gavell de lloydenewy restat in manus coit' villarū istius ville p'defecū hered' p'dimiss' vic' p'serviti' debet.' Et consuet et Redd inde quol't termino p'd'cor' terminor' p'd' xvd. Suma p'ann' vs. Et qual't istarū quinq' gavell nativarū p'dt' quarta p'tes p'dce

gavell vocat' gavell Efferiat que redd' quolib't anno ad fñm S'ci Petri ad vincla ut p'supra in ista villa solu' quol't anno ad d'cum fñm pro repat' man'ii p'dci iij*d.* et sic suma cunstit' terminii p' dcorū quatuor gavell coniuncta xij*d.* Suma p' ann' xij*d.* Et qualib't p'd'car' quinq' gavell p'ter predict' quarta p'tem solvat quol't anno ad fñm S'ci Petri ad vincla p'd' p' Kilgh stalon iij*d.* et sic est suma cuiuslib't termini p'd'carū gavell' coniunt' xij*d.* Suma p' ann' xij*d.* Et omnes iste quinq' fact' fect' ad duos magnos turnos per ann' et fac' Carriage princ' apud trefriu aber et usq' aquam belli marisci hōie et equo rapienter diem duos denar' et solūm pro quol't reler' vjs. viij*d.* Et pro qual't gol vjs. viij*d.* et pro qual't annob vjs. viij*d.* et debet sect' ad molam dium' de Conwey et solum Kilgh Raglot et ip'i et omnes villani istius Comoti solvent' quolib't anno coniunct' ad fñstū Pasche et S'ci mich'is p' equales porcōes de fine duorum magnorum terminorum p' anum xls. Suma p' ann' xls. Suma redd' istius ville p' ann' xliiij*s.* jd. ob. ultra xls. pro fine. Eadem villa est de troweloge, et est in eadem villa una gavell et terr' p's' unius gavell de terra nativa et sunt hered' Suma Redd p' ann' vjs. ijd. et fac' fect' et omia alia ut villam eisdam ville de Eriannus."

## Nō. VIII.

(From the Editor's unpublished Manuscripts.)

### A COPY OF HERLE HIS COMMISSION.

*Of the Cunstableskipe of the Castell of Conwey and Stewardshipe of the Abbye of Bardesey.*

MARIA DEI grā Anglie ffrancie et hib'nie Regina fidei Defensor et in terra Eccl'ie Anglicane et hib'nice Supremum Caput. OMNIBUS ad quos p'sentes l're p'uen'int sal'tem. SCIATIS qd nos in consideracōe boni et fidelis seruicij nobis p'dil'cam servientem nram Joh'em herle unu' de lez Quiries Stabuli n'ri ante hac impens' de gr'a n'ra Sp'iali, certa scientia et mero motu n'ris Dedimus et Concessimus ac p' p'ntes Damus et Concedimus eidam Joh'i herle offi-

ciū Constabularii sive Custodis Castri n'ri de Conwey in Com' n'ro Carn'von infra princip'itatem n'ram Northwalli' Ac etiam officiū senescalli et Custodis curiarū om̄n et singlorū Diñor' maneriorū terr' ten'torū possessionū et hereditamentorū n'rorū quorūcūq' nup' monasterio de Bardesey in eodam Com' Carn'von quoquōdo spectan' vel p'tineñ aut p'cell' possessionū inde nup' existen', Quequidam officia ffranciscus Comes Hunt's nup' h'ait, ac ad p'sens in dono et disposicōe n'ris legitimo modo existuat, ac ip'm Johanem herle Constabulari' et Custode' Castri n'ri de Conwey p'd. Ac Senescalli p'd maneri' diñorū terrarū ten'torū et ceterorū p'missorū p'd monasterio de Bardsey spectan' et p'tinen', facimus ordinauimus et constituimus p' p'sentes h'endi gauden' exercend' et occupand' officia p'd et eorum utrūq' p'fato Joh'i herle p'se vel p' sufficientem Deputatū su' sive Deputatos su' sufficientes ad Termin' et p' termino vite eiusdam Johannis herle. Et ulterius de uberiori g'ra n'ra dedimus et concessimus ac p' p'ntes damus et concedimus eidam Johān herle p' exercicio et occupacōe d'cti off'cii Constabularii Castri p' vad' et feod' Quinquaginta librarū p' Ann' ac pro exercicio et occupacōe Dic' officii Senescall' p'd maneriorū terrarū ten'torū et ceterorū p'missorū D'co nup' monasterio spectan' et p'tinen' vadū et feod' lxjs. legalis monet' Anglie p' Ann' habendū et gaudend' eadam vad' et feod' et eorū utrūq' p'fato Johan' herle et assign' suis ad termin' et pro termino vite ip'ius Joh'nis herle p'cipend' animatim p'd feod' quinquaginta librarū de exitibus p'ficiis et reuenucoibus principalit'is n're Northwall' p'd p'ueniend' et cressen' p' manus Can' arij seu Receptoris n'ri ibim' p' temp'e existen' ad festa S'ci Mich'is arch'i et annuciacōis b'te Marie virginis p' equales porcōes, ac p'cipiend' anuatim p'd vad' lxjs. p' manus Balliuorū firmariorū tenentiū seu aliorū occupator' p'missoru' p'd nup' monasterio p'tinen' p'tempore de existen' de exitibus et reuenucoibus eorūdam p'missorū ad festa p'd p' equales porcōes una cū oībus aliis p'ficiis comoditat' et advantagiis d'cis officiis seu eorū alteri quoquomodo spectan' & p'tinen' in tam amplis modo et forma p'ut ffranciscus Comes Hunt' aut aliquis



alius sive aliqui alii d'ca officia seu eor' utrūq' ante hac h'eus seu gaudens h'entes seu gaudentes h'uit p'cipit vel gavisus fuit, h'uerunt p'ceperunt vel gavisi fuerunt, p'exercicio eodam officior' seu eor' alterius. Et ulterius de ampliori g'ra n'ra dedimus et concessimus, ac p' p'sentes damus, et concedimus, eidam Joh'ni herle tot et tantas Denar' sūmas ad quot et quantas d'ct' seperalia vad' et feod' et eorū utrūq' a festo annunc' b'te Marie virginis ultimo p'terito huc usq' se extendunt et attingunt, h'endi eidam Joh'ni herle ex dono n'ro p' manus Can'arium Baliorū seu firmariorū p'd absq' compoto seu aliquo alio p'inde nobis hered' vel successor' n'ris quomodo reddend' solvend' vel faciend' eo qd expressa mentio de vero valore anno aut de aliquo alio valore vel certitudine p'miss' sive eorum aliquius aut de aliis donis sive concessionibus p'nos vel p' aliquem p'genitor n'ror' p'fato Joh'ni herle ante hec tempora fact' in p'sentibus minime fit existit aut aliquo statuto, actu, ordinacōne, p'visione, restricōne inde in cōtrario fct', edit' ordinat', sive p'viss', aut aliqua alia re causa vel materia quacunq' in aliquo modo non obstant'. IN CUI' REI testimoniū has l'ras n'ras fieri fecimus patentes, Teste meipsa apud Westm' Decimo die Octobris Anno Regni primo."

## No. IX.

THE following assessment furnishes us with the names of the freeholders and tenants in the year 1567, in the comot of Isav, or Arllechwedd isav, which comprises the parishes of Aberconwy, Gynffin, Llangelynin, Caer rhun, and Llanbedr.

(From the Editor's unpublished Manuscripts.)

### COMOTT DE ISSAPHE.

Rentalle Reddu' assic' ville de Castelh cum hamlet de llechan, Glyn gronante, penvro, llanbeder, factum virtute Bris Dñe Regine Elizabeth de certiorar' fac' vic' Caern'von direct' viz. Riceo Gruff' milit' tunc vic' Com' p'd Et Terminat' xviiijo. die aprilis, anno

Regni d'ce Dñe Regine nono. Per sacram' Hugonis ap Robt' ap Wm. Owin' ap Rica', Ricei ap mad. Hugonis ap Dd. Owyn ap Gruff' ap Glyn. Owin ap Jon. ap Jeam. Rice' ap Wm. ap gr. Jeam thomas ap Rees. Rob'ti ap llem ap Jeam. Wm. llem ap Jeam. Ricei ap Wm. Tudor. Hugonis ap Thomas ap R.' Wm. gruff' ap Jeam, Hugonis ap Jon. ap gr, Lewis ap Rob't, et Wm. ap Jon ap Jeam. Qui dicunt sup' sacram' sanc', ut sequitur postea.

Richard Bulkeley mil'	-	-	xxvijs.
Mores Wynn p'tero Jon ap Jonet ap			
Jon ap Wm.	-	-	xd.
John Wynn ap hugh Ar.	-	-	lijd.
Edward Wms. arm	-	-	xjs. viijd.
Hugh ap Rob't ap Wm. gen'	-	-	xxvjs. viijd.
Henry Wms.	-	-	vijjs. liijd.
Rob't ap hugh ap Rinalte	-	-	liijd.
Gruff' Davis arm	-	-	xvj d.
Richard hampton	-	-	xxd.
Richard Peecke	-	-	xd.
George Gruff'	-	-	xvjs. viijd.
Tyr Gruff' wyth	-	-	vjd.
Wm. ap Rob't ap m'dith	-	-	vs. ijd.
Owin ap David	-	-	iiijjs. lijd.
Thomas gruff'	-	-	lijs. ix d.
Thomas ap David lloyd	-	-	vjd. ob.
Thomas ap Wm. ap David	-	-	liijd.
Hugh Stodarte	-	-	xxd.
Rees ap llem ap gr pellyn	-	-	ijs. jd.
Rob't ap mredith ap Wm.	-	-	ijd.
John ap Wm. gruff'	-	-	vjd.
William ap Rob't ap glynn	-	-	xviijd.
Rob't ap Rees ap Richard	-	-	xviijd.
Lowry uch owen ap thomas ap hol'			vjd.
Jeam lloyd ap hol' ap Rees	-		ijd.

John ap Rees ap Tudyr	-	-	xliijd.
David ap Jeam ap mad	-	-	vijd.
Wm. ap hugh ap Rees ap Rob't	-	-	ijd.
Gruff' ap Rees ap Wm.	-	-	ijd.
William holland	-	-	ijs. jd.
Hugh holland	-	-	liijd. ob.
Kay llyder	-	-	xijd.
David ap Jon thomas	-	-	xvjd.
Humphrey holland	-	-	ijd.
Nicholas mellers	-	-	ixd.
Raffe mellers	-	-	jd.
David ap Rees ap Ric'	-	-	jd.
Lewis ap Rees ap David	-	-	liijd.
Tyr tutur gwyn yn bryn y bettus			liijd.
Wm. ap Richard ap Rees	-		vijd.
Jonet uch gruff' & annes uch gruff'	lijs.		
Hugh thomas ap Jeam ap Rees	-		xjd.
Hugh thomas ap Rees	-	-	liijd.
Owen David lloyd	-	-	vliijd.
Wm. gruff' ap glynn	-	-	vjd.
Wm. ap Jon ap Jeam	-	-	vjd.
Ffowlke ap Ric' ap dd ap pellyn	-		vjd.
Wm. ap Ric' ap David	-	-	ijd.
Kay waryng yn moditha	-	ijs.	vliijd.
Kay waryng yn lloydvayn	-		xijd.
Owen ap Wm. ap Rees	-	-	xijd.
Wm. thomas ap Jeam ap dd	-		xvijd. ob.
David ap Wm. ap m'edd	-	-	liijd.
Hugh ap owen ap dd ap thomas	-		vliijd.
Hugh ap Wm. ap lleam	-		xvijd.
Wm. Bulkeley m'cer	-	-	vliijd.
Howell gruff' ap Jenkyn	-		xvliijd.
Tyr Crach y Bryn	-	vs.	
Y gydwerne	-	-	vjd.

Thomas Salusbury	-	-	iijs.
Robert ap Sr hugh	-	-	iiijd.
Hugh ap Dd ap Rob't	-	-	xiijd.
Y Briwnaynt	-	-	vd.
Tyr Carwell'	-	-	ijs. jd. ob.
Tyr Styffan	-	-	xxd.
Rob't owen ap J'	-	-	xjd.
Thomas ap Wm. ap madd'	-	-	jd. ob.
Morvydd uch Rob't ap madd'	-	-	iijd. ob
Rob't ap lleam ap Jeam ap Dd	-	iijs.	vjd.
Wm. ap lleam ap Jeam ap David	-	-	xxd.
Robert ap Wm. ap thomas ap lel-	-	-	vjd.
Robert ap Wm. Rob't ap lowres	-	-	iijd.
Ffowike ap Richard ap Wm.	-	-	lijd. ob.
Rob't lewis ap madd'	-	-	ijd.
Mores ap John ap Rees	-	-	viijd.
Hugh ap Jon gruff'	-	-	viijd.
Harry ap glyn	-	-	ixd.
Jeam ap hugh ap Rees ap Jon	-	-	liijd.
Thomas ap Rob't m'clith	-	-	vd.
Rob't ap m'edd ap Wm. p'terre	-	-	
katerin uch Jon ap Wm. matter sun'	-	-	xijd.
Alson uch Jon ap Wm.	-	-	xjd.
Marsley uch Jon ap Wm.	-	-	xijd.
Cadlayes y viccar	-	-	iiijd.
Annes uch Jon ap Wm.	-	-	xijd.
Thomas Wyn ap Edmond	-	-	jd.
Rees ap madd' ap glyn	-	-	iiijd.
Richard ap Wm. gruff'	-	-	ijd.
Tyr tutor gwyn yn mron hythgene-	-	-	iiijd.
Jeam thomas ap Rees	-	-	viijd.
Tyr Rob't ap Dd ap yollyn	-	-	iijd.
Richard ap Wm. Tudder	-	-	xvijd.
Hugh ap Dd ap Jeam Dico	-	ijs.	

William hookes	-	-	-	vs.
Tyr talgwge	-	-	-	ixd.
Jon ap Sr Wm.	-	-	-	ij d.
Rich ap R. p'terra Jon moyles terr'				xxjd.
Annes uch thomas ap R'ap gronwe				vij d.
Alis uch thomas ap R' ap gronwe	-			iiij d.
Katerin uch thomas R' ap gronwe	-			ij d.
Edd' Wms hugh ap Rob't ap Wm.				
p'pte molend llanbedr	-	-		xxjd.
Wm Hooks p' p'te molend' p'd'	-			iiij d.
Thomas Assaphe Ep'us p' p'te s'				
molend p'd'	-	-	-	ij d.
Gruff' Davis p' p'te molend p'd'	-			ij d.
Hugh Davies p' p'te molend p'd'	-			iiij d.
George Davies p' p'te molend' p'd'				ij d.
Wm ap R' ap gronowe p' p'te molend p'd'				ij d.
Rob't ap Thomas ap lleam ap dd p'				
p'te molend p'd'	-	-		jd.
Elen uch dd p' p'te molend' p'd'	-			jd.
Thomas Dd lloyd p' p'te molend' p'd'				ij d.
Wm holland p' p'te s' molend' p'd'				jd.
Kay madd' Krache	-	-		xxd.
Ellen gruff' ap glyn	-	-		jd.
Wm ap Rich. ap Wm.	-	-		iiij d.
Suma hui' Rental' p' ann'			- xjl. iijs. viij d. ob.	
Sua p' ann'—ixl. iijs. vd.	}			
foed' Bal' ib'm—xls. ij d. ob.			xjl. iijs. viij d. ob.	

## No. X.

(From the Editor's unpublished Manuscripts.)

THE recepte of Mr. Wyll'am Holland and Hugh byrkedale  
 stuartes of y<sup>e</sup> mylnes from y<sup>e</sup> feaste of saynt Edward the confessor  
 in y<sup>e</sup> xxij yere of y<sup>e</sup> rayne of kynge Henry the viij unto y<sup>e</sup> same  
 feaste next folowyng.

Margere browne a hoope* whete	xvjd.
Marget peycke a hoope whete	xvjd.
Alyse Holland a hoope whete	xvjd.
Jenet davyd a hoope whete	xvjd.
Agnes vz engyon a pecke whete	iiijd.
Davyd ap Tudyr a pecke whete	iiijd.
Geffrey ap Jankin a hoope mongecorne	xijd.
Helyn Peycke a stryke mongecorne	ijs.
Alyse Stodart a hoope whete	xvd.
Helyn Hoocks a hoope whete	xvd.
Helyn aldersley a hoope whete	xvjd.
John ap gruffyth d. hoope monge- corne	vd.
Edmunde dd. a hoope mongecorne	xvd.
John ap Tudyr a stryke mongecorne	ijs.
Renalde ap gruffyth a stryke mongecorne	xxd.
Hol <sup>l</sup> ap Tudyr a stryke mongecorne	xxd.
James lathwood d. a hoope whete	vijjd.
Lewys ap Rese d. a hoope whete	vijjd.
Thomas byrkedale d. a hoope whete	vijjd.
Gwenhovar vz ethel d. a quarter mongecorne	vjs. vijjd.

\* Two clybys make one peck, four pecks one hoop, two hoops one strike, and four strikes one quarter.

Harre ap Ho <sup>n</sup> a hoope mongecorne	x <sup>d</sup> .
Dauyd ap gruffyth ij stryke monge-	
corne - - - -	v <sup>s</sup> .
John aldersley a hoope mongecorne	x <sup>d</sup> .
Roland lee a hoope mongecorne -	x <sup>d</sup> .
Jane acton d. a hoope whete -	vij <sup>d</sup> .
Rese ap Jenan d. a hoope monge-	
corne - - - -	v <sup>d</sup> .
Ryc' ap Rese a hoope otemele -	xj <sup>d</sup> .
Wylliam ocley d. a hoope otemele	vj <sup>d</sup> .
Gwenlleuan vz Robert d. a hoope	
mongecorne - - - -	v <sup>d</sup> .
Meredyth ap Wylliam a stryke & d.	
mongecorne - - - -	ij <sup>s</sup> . vj <sup>d</sup> .
Gwenhovar vz bedo a hoope otemele	xij <sup>d</sup> .
Jenet totte d. a hoope whete - -	vij <sup>d</sup> .
Agnes porter d. a hoope mongecorne	v <sup>d</sup> .
Katerin stodart a hoope whete -	xv <sup>d</sup> .
Wylliam ap gwylym a hoope	
mongecorne - - - -	x <sup>d</sup> .
Hugh byrches d. a hoope otemele -	vj <sup>d</sup> .
Kateryn bulkeley d. a hoope otemele	vj <sup>d</sup> .
Wylliam ap Robart ij stryke monge-	
corne - - - -	ilj <sup>s</sup> . iij <sup>d</sup> .
Marget pygot a hoope mongecorne	x <sup>d</sup> .
Edmunde taylyor d. a hoope monge-	
corne - - - -	v <sup>d</sup> .
Gwenhovar vz madoc d. a hoope	
otemele - - - -	vj <sup>d</sup> . ob.
Hugh byrkedale d. a hoope whete	x <sup>d</sup> .
Kateryn vz Thomas a hoope monge	
corne - - - -	xij <sup>d</sup> .
William maderer d. a hoope mongecorne	vj <sup>d</sup> .
Dauyd ap Rese a hoope otemele -	xij <sup>d</sup> .

Ryc' ap John a hoope mongecorne	xijd.
Rycharde Holland a pecke monge-	
corne - - - -	iijd.
Marget scherman d. a hoope whete	xd.
Jenet vz Rychart d. a hoope monge-	
corne - - - -	vjd.
Gwen vz engyon a peck whete -	vd.
Jonne Robinson d. a hoope whete	xvjd.
Dauyd mylner iiij pecks mongecorne	ixd.
John Salysbre d. a hoope whete -	xijd.
Robert ap Rychard a hoope & d.	
mongecorne - - - -	xviijd.
Harre acton a hoope whete -	xvjd.
Marget loudon a kebyn whete -	ijd.
John bru'ro a hoope mougecorne -	xd.
Ryc' ap Thomas a hoope monge-	
corne - - - -	xd.

*(The remaining 205 items are a repetition of the above names.)*

S'ma - - - -	xij/li. xixs. xjd. ob.
John Carter a stryke malte -	xxijd.
Marget scherman a stryke & d.	
malte - - - -	ijs. ixd.
Thomas byrkedale a hoope malte -	xjd.
Hugh byrkedale xiiij stryke malte	xxijs. ixd.
John barker d. a hoope malte -	vd.
Helyn mellers a hoope malte -	xd.
Helyn peycke ij quarter & d. malte	xxxs.
John mylner a stryke malt -	xviijd.
Agnes Conwey ij stryke - -	iijs.

*(The remaining items are 59 in number.)*

S'ma - - - -	xxij/li. vijs. xjd. ob.
S'ma tot. - - - -	xxxvli. vijs. xjd.



*The sum total of the disbursements is xxvijli. xiijs. iijd.*

*Et sic remanet declar' - - - vijli. xiijs. viijd.*

*Et Willms Holland et Hugo Brykedale sol' inde vz xiijs. die Januarij ao. H. viij. xiijs.—vli. vjs. vjd.*

M.D. that the said Hugh Byrkedale hath paid to the handys of Hugh hookys the some of *vl. vjs. viijd.* p'cell' whereof paid by the hands of the said hugh hookys to Nich'as mellures to pay the King *xxs.* and also paid to Mr. arnold his fee *vjs. viijd.* and the rest wiche is *xxs.* the said hugh paid to the comyn coffre.

M.D. that the *xiiij* Daye off January in the *xxiiijth* yere of the reign of Kyng Henry the *viiij* Ric' bulkeley then beyng ald'mā by thassent of all the comēs of the towne of Conwey delyv'yd the said *vli. vjs. vjd.* unto hugh peyk hugh hooks Nich'as Mellures & Bartholomew stodart w, other money to sue for the said towne of Conwey. Hugh peicke. Ryc' peicke vicar. Wyllam holland p'рте. hugh hokys.

Be it also in remembrance that the said *xiiijth* day of January in the foresaid *xxiijd.* yere of the Reign of Kyng henry the *viiijth* ther was taken out of the comyn coffre *xijli xixs. ixđ.* of the whiche *xijli. xixs. ixđ. vjli. xixs. ixđ.* were delyv'yd the said hugh peyk hugh hoks Nich'as Mellurs & Barth' Stodart for their cost, and the other *vjli.* were delyn'yd the said Nich'as Mellurs to kepe and to make accompt thereof agayne unto the comēs of the said towne.

M.D. that the said hugh peyke, hugh hookys, nich'as mellures, & Barth' stodart, in the fest of Saynt Mathie theap'le ao. *xxij* H. viij accompted in the Comyn house before the comburges howe they spend the said *xijli. xixs. ixđ.* whereof they were allowed & acgwytte but *viijs.* wiche Resteth in the hands of the said hugh peick.

## No. XI.

*A copy of part of the last Will and Testament of the late Lewes Owen, Esq. deceased:*

I give and bequeath unto the aforesaid Hugh Williams and Henry Jones, and to there heirs for ever, Jointly all my Rectory of Conway, and right of patronage to the Vicar of Conway, and all my Tythes in Conway & Glethaieth, with their appurtenance, in the County of Carnarvon, to the uses following (that is to say) that they the said Hugh Williams and Henry Jones and there heirs shall let and sett the Rectory Tythes and Premises last mentioned to the utmost value, which shall be yearly for ever laid out and bestowed in Woollen and Linnen Cloaths, to be cutt out into gowns shirts and smocks, with stockings & shoes, and the same to be given every All-hollan day yearly for ever unto poor men and women dwelling in the the Town of Conway, and in the three parishes in the Comott of Crythin, viz<sup>t</sup> each of them a gown, a shirt, or a smock, a pair of shoes, a pair of stockings to the value of twenty shillings, or thereabouts, at the discretion of the said Hugh Williams, Henry Jones, and Robert Salsbury and their heirs, and of y<sup>e</sup> Vicars and Churchwardens of the four several parishes of Conway, Eglerosse, Llangwstenin, and Llandidno, there for the time being, each poor man and woman being three score years old at the least, Except they be starke blind, and they or any four of them to certify under there hands before the feast of Christmas in every year unto the Bishops of the Diocese where the said tithes lie that they have performed this my bequest according to the true intent of my will. And I further will that those persons who shall by force of this my will enjoy my lands in Eglecrosse and Llynsteninge, shall for ever pay to the poor of the said Two Parishes Twelve pence a piece weekly in Bread, as they have always by me received the same; Le. Owen. Signed sealed and published by the said Lewes Owen as his last will & Testament 4th day of Sept. 1623, in the presence of Toby Mathew, Rice Lane. ser<sup>r</sup>.

## No. XII.

## COWYDD I SANT FFRAID.

*(From the Editor's unpublished Manuscripte.)*

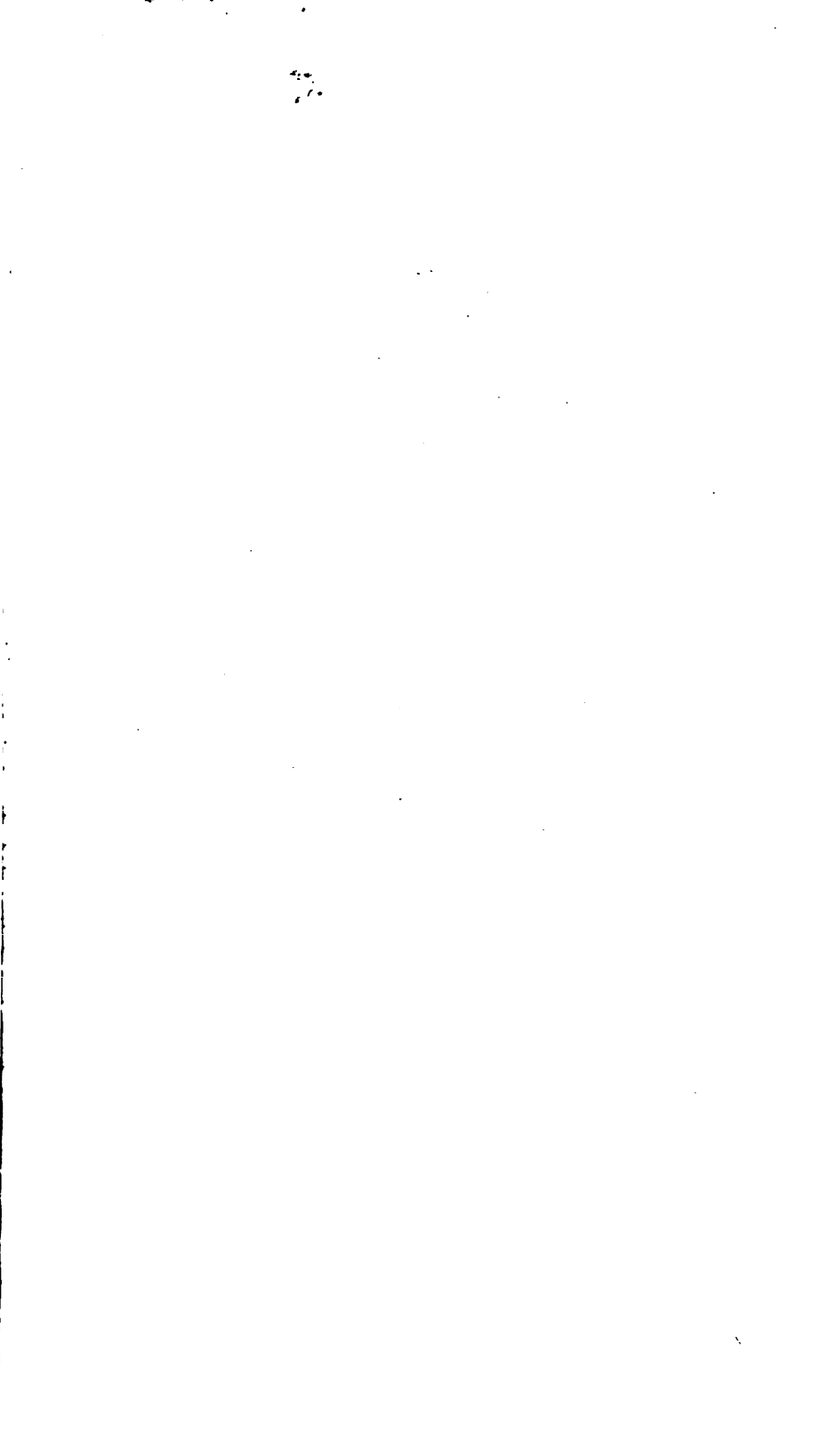
Y lleian hardd yw llun hon,  
 Lle i urddwyd holl y werddon;  
 Merch i'r gwr mowrwyd a gaid,  
 Dip dacws o dop duciaid.  
 Santes nith oedes i'th ddydd,  
 Sanffraid Iesu i ffrydydd.  
 Wrth ddechre dy wrthie diwan,  
 A'th fuchedd nid iaith fechan,  
 Y dydd morwyn ddedwydd wyd,  
 O'th ddawn oll i'th ynillwyd;  
 Coes dy lysfam, gam i gwaith,  
 Draw dam a dorwyd ymaith,  
 Tyfodd, mawr i gwnaid hefyd,  
 O'th rad goes a throed i gyd;  
 Mynnaist i wan, mynwes deg  
 Mal ar gŵyr, mèl or garreg.  
 Treiglaist o bob ta i'r eglwys  
 Trywyr gynt a fu'n troi'r gwys.  
 A'th gogal i droi'r ail draw,  
 Ni bu chwelydr heb chwillaw.  
 Ymenyn gwyn am un gair  
 Aeth yn lludw, waith anlladair;  
 A lludw aeth yn llaw dyn  
 Yn y man yn ymenyn:  
 A chwrw a wnaed, chwaer i Non,  
 Mewn da gawg mwy na digon,

I beri daioni dwys  
Dyn wiw glaer daunaw eglwys.  
Rhoddaist i'r cantref hefyd  
Er Duw gaws y maerdy i gyd.  
Ag er rhoi caws y gwr can,  
Dydd a nos nid oedd un eisiau.  
Gwyddit y pymtheg gweddi,  
A gwedd teg y gweddiyt i;  
Bwilt y nythlen wennaul  
O bau law trwm ar belydr haul.  
O'r Werddon ar y donnen  
I'r mor yn wir, morwyn wen,  
Da nofïaist hyd yn Nyfi,  
Mae dull Duw ar dy fantell di :  
Ar li i doethost i'r lan,  
Sy'n ffrwyd loew, sanffraid leian :  
Gwnaethost o'r brwyn yngwynedd  
Pysgod glan, pasg gyda gwledd.  
Bwriaist ymrig y berwr  
Brwynied yn obru yn y dwr.  
Byw'n iach deg buon l'ch dwrn,  
Byw'n esgud heb un asgwrn :  
Amcenaist ni ddelfiaist ddig  
Weled Pedr o wlad Padrig;  
Gwelaist nef ynhref Rufain,  
Gwyl wen Fair a'i gloewon fain,  
Ar nowradd morwyn wirion,  
Ar o lauhau yw'r wyl hon.  
A'th wyl a 'sodes Iesu,  
Noswyl Fair fal duw sul fu ;  
Gwnaethost yddyn yn Llundain  
Y maer yn farch, morwyn fain ;  
Llawer a wnaeth Duw erod ;  
Lle bych och am allu bod !

Rhwyddhoist rhoddaist yn rhydd  
Rhag y pab wraig y pobydd ;  
Rhwnaist y cythrel creulawn,  
Rhoed a'th Dduw a rhad a'th ddawn :  
Rhoed Duw finau y rhydd feinir  
Rhag pob diawl, pan fo hawl hir ;  
Ffyrnig cwn uffern i caid,  
Da Fred fwyn difryd f'enaïd.

IORWERTH FYNGLWYD, a'i cant.

THE END.











FEB 1 - 1932



